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Shirley's Coffee Shop, Take Care, FHP donate to 'Field of Heroes.' PAGE 2

PSS also recruiting bilingual teachers. PAGE 3

DURING MEETING WITH THURSDAY MARKET VENDORS

DCCA puts off vendor's fee increase

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Arts Secretary Robert Hunter announced his department will, as of the moment, no longer be raising vendor's fees at the Thursday Market during a meeting with vendors last Friday at the Carolinian Utt.

After hearing the concerns of vendors of the weekly food and arts fair and getting criticism from the plan days before the dialogue, Hunter said DCCA will first try to lower expenditures. He also said another option is to ask the Legislature to give the Thursday Market an annual budget

See DCCA on Page 4

ERWIN ENCINARES
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter talks about the proposed vendor's fee hike to Thursday Market vendors during a meeting last Friday at the Carolinian Utt. At left is J.M. Guerrero, former Marianas Visitors Bureau managing director and owner of one of Hula Girl, which sells local delicacies like *apigigi* at the Thursday Market.

Torres signs law creating political commission

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed last Friday House Bill 19-2 that aims to create a commission that would examine the CNMI's current political status with the United States. HB 19-2, authored by Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan), is now known as Public Law 19-63.

The law's purpose is create the Second Marianas Political Status Commission where its primary task is to review, study, examine, conduct public political education, and awareness "and all others that may assist [them] in accomplishing its responsibilities under this Act."

Examining the current political relationship between the CNMI and the U.S., determine whether the CNMI people are still in favor of continuing political union with

See TORRES on Page 4

Micronesia chief executives urged to invite air competition, bid all government travels

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Wakai

Former KMCV News reporter/anchor turned Hawaii State Senator Glenn Wakai has encouraged five entities in Micronesia, including the CNMI, to come together and put out a bid from airlines all government travel between their islands to significantly reduce airfare price, which he described at present as astonishing.

"Complaining for decades has gotten nowhere and made the airlines rich at the expense of residents," said Wakai in an interview.

Instead of just accepting the status quo, Wakai said, it's about time for Micronesian leaders to "play offense."

The senator came to Saipan two weeks ago with former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann, who is the founder of the Pacific Century Fellows Program and established the PCF CNMI Chapter three years ago. In addition to talking to PCF fellows, Wakai also spoke to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce board of directors about casino growth.

Last year, the Hawaii State senator offered this idea to invite air com-

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LOCAL
The Saipan Mayor's Office acquired a new truck that would help collect junk cars and put them in a holding area before being shipped off-island.
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ASIA
Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's death threats against criminals, his promise to battle corruption, his anti-establishment rhetoric and gutter humor have enamored Filipinos.
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Tight end Kyle Rudolph's two most productive seasons for the Minnesota Vikings were those in which he played every game.
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Local

Shirley's Coffee Shop, Take Care/FHP donate to 'Field of Heroes'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop and Take Care/FHP last Wednesday donated $1,000 each to the "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" event hosted by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Shirley's Coffee Shop and Take Care/FHP have been donating and involved in community work for quite some time and now have decided to donate money to an event that promotes the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, of veterans and current military personnel on the island.

Cathy Attao-Toves, vice president of Corporate Affairs of Tan Holdings Corp., said she is honored that numerous companies have shared the common goal.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 4

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Department of Labor

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ERWIN ENCINARES

Tan Holdings Corporate Affairs' Eunice Angeles and Cathy Attao-Toves pose with Shirley's Coffee Shop staff, led by general manager Susan Macario, during the check presentation to the event "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" last Wednesday at the restaurant's Susupe branch.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Tan Holdings Corporate Affairs' Eunice Angeles and Cathy Attao-Toves pose with Take Care/FHP's Nora Sablan and staff while presenting the check in donation for the event "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" last Wednesday at the FHP Take Care office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Tourism Topics
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
Saipan Tinian Rota
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

2nd Annual Plumeria Swim in Saipan

The Marianas Visitors Authority's (MVA) 2nd Annual Plumeria Swim in Saipan returns on Saturday (Sept. 3). Mandatory orientation and the last day to register will be from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Sept. 2, 2016, at Paseo de Marianas.

This year, the Plumeria Swim (formerly the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race) will be held at Kilili Beach Park on a course circling the historic World War II tanks in the lagoon. The event has four race categories and welcomes swimmers with or without flippers. The cost for Northern Mariana Is. residents with valid I.D. is $20 for the 500m or 1500m swim., $25 for the flipper race, or $60 per team for 2000m relay swimming (up to four members per team). The flipper race requires swimmers to use wetsuits or life jacket and fins, along with mask and snorkels. The race will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony at the beach. Awards will be given for Overall Male/Female, Junior Male/Female, and Male/Female by age

For more information or an entry form, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or call Ed Diaz at 1.670.664.3210 or email ediaz@mymarianas.com.

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Habitual offender moves for mistrial of theft case

A habitual offender has moved for mistrial in his theft case charging him for stealing a purse that contained money after the government allegedly suppressed evidence when a witness testified that a police detective showed her with a photo lineup, but the detective denied it.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for defendant Peter Lemei Koichi, argued that to allow the bench trial to proceed would be to sacrifice Koichi's right to due process, right to present a defense, right to a fair trial, and right to effective assistance of counsel.

It was already in the middle of bench trial last Aug. 16 when Clark moved for mistrial for violation of his due process rights under Brady. This prompted Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who presided over the trial, to suspend the proceedings to have a hearing on the issue on Sept. 14.

Brady material refers to a piece of evidence known to the prosecution that is important for establishing the innocence or reducing the punishment of a defendant.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Koichi with misdemeanor theft for allegedly stealing

The government alleges that Koichi stole a purse from a woman while she was sitting in a friend's garage playing cards on April 10, 2016.

At the bench trial on Aug. 16, the prosecution called several witnesses, including the alleged victim, and police officer Ralph Rangamar.

In Koichi's motion for mistrial, Clark said the third witness testified that she was an eyewitness to the incident, and was sitting at the same table as the alleged victim when the incident occurred.

Upon Clark's cross examination, the witness testified that while at the police station, on April 12, 2016, she was interviewed by a detective.

She testified that the detective, whose name she could not remember, typed up her oral statement, showed it to her, printed it, and then had her sign the statement.

She further testified that the same detective, prior to printing out and having her sign her statement, showed her a series of photographs and asked her if she could recognize anyone from the photographs.

She testified that she told the detective that she did not recognize anyone in the photos.

At that point, Clark said he finished his cross examination of the witness and consulted with co-counsel.

Clark then requested that the court order a mistrial in the case due to the unconstitutional suppression of exculpatory evidence by the government.

Camacho then suspended the proceedings to have a hearing on the issue.

The witness was called back in and examined by Koichi's counsel.

Police Detective Andrew Taimanao also testified that he remembered the witness and that he took her statement, but that he did not remember showing her any photographs.

Clark said Taimanao testified that in all his cases, if he shows a photo lineup to a witness, there is only one photo lineup created, if 12 people, and that includes the suspect.

Clark said Taimanao testified that it would shock him to learn that the witness testified that he showed her photographs.

Clark cited that in Brady v. Maryland, the U.S. Supreme Court held that "the suppression by the prosecution of evidence favorable to an accused …violates the due process where the evidence is material either to guilt or to punishment, irrespective of the good

See HABITUAL on Page 4

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DCCA

From Page 1

for the next fiscal year.

Hunter also volunteered in the meeting another reason the DCCA is not going to increase selected vendor's fees is because a private company is willing to subsidize the street market, but talks are still on the way.

"I've also met with stakeholders; I won't tell you who because I don't want to put them on the spot now but they're meeting with their own boards and members to help subsidize the market so that we can bring that expenses to revenue difference a little bit closer," said Hunter.

"Just by that alone we would be able to stretch out the market probably pretty much the year without raising fees, that doesn't mean we're going to close this deficit so we really need these subsidies from these particular agencies which we would probably get."

J.M. Guerrero, former Marianas Visitors Bureau managing director who owns Hula Girl, was pleased with Hunter's announcement. Guerrero also wishes that if ever there were to be a raise in the vendor's fee, it would be gradually rising instead of a sudden increase. Hula Girl sells apigigi, empanada, and other native delicacies at the Thursday Market.

Rose Chan, owner of Canton Restaurant, let out a sigh of relief now that the vendor's fee won't increase. Chan would once again be considering the financials if an increase in the vendor's fee would come, even a gradual increase would force her to reconsider selling at the street market.

Like Hula Girl, Canton Restaurant is a staple at the weekly street market where it sells bento meals for $5 for five choices.

Hunter reiterated that the Thusrday Market is not self-sustainable anymore. As of last Thursday, Aug 25, the overall funding that the weekly food and arts fair has with the Department of Finance is $15,000 and after the next street market, Hunter suspects it to sink to $14,000.

"This [Thursday Market] has to be as close to self-sustaining as can be. There isn't a street market allocation, there isn't a street market fund; nobody to this point has subsidized the market. It's been living off this fund that has almost completely depleted," said Hunter.

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is now working with providers of various logistical necessities such as tents, tables, electricity, and more in an effort to lower expenditures. "We set to work on lowering the logistical costs which the Arts Council is still doing right now, trying to renegotiate with the tent vendors, searching for new vendors if possible," shared Hunter. "We have identified another company that will save us $250 a month on the street market but will provide a permanent stage as well and better sound equipment. So we're first going through the expenses and looking to lower costs wherever we can."

Hunter said that the DCCA would like to cut costs as much as possible. Unnecessary expenditures that are not crucial to the overall operations of the street market would be omitted. "What we're trying to do is address every other avenue which also includes cutting out totally unnecessary stuff, stuff that might've enhanced the market [such as] shirt printing and apron printing. There is a whole list of stuff that isn't really integral to the weekly operations of the market, unlike tents, restrooms, sound and stage, entertainment; so we're cutting all of that out," said Hunter. "We're going to try and bring the cost as low as possible and identify new revenue sources before we pass on any fee hikes at this point."

Changes also include the introduction of a new policy, one that requires vendors to pay for reserved tents whether they show up or not. "We're going to have to enforce when you reserve a tent but don't show up, you'd still have to pay for it. Because we have these tents that go unpayed for, unfilled, and so that's a loss for everybody. Everybody loses when that happens. But the street market fund loses the most," said Hunter.

Hunter says that just in case the street market does not get the subsidies from the private company, talks would be made with the Legislature to include the Thursday Market in the budget for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019. "If we could string it on long enough we could go to the Legislature and ask for an appropriation or try to get it into the FY18 budget," said Hunter.

Comments made in disagreement to Hunter's decision of raising certain vendor's fees have surfaced, but Hunter said, "I think the days of considering the market self-sustainable are gone. Comments have been made to me in the last couple of days that say the market should pay for itself. If that were the case, then we would really need to raise the fees. We're not going to do that," said Hunter.

In the event of an increase in vendor's fee, it would usually go to vendors with the highest revenue in the market. "Fee hikes are passed on nominally to the highest earners at the market. We're hoping that doesn't have to happen. We'd really like to be in a place where, especially for our artists and our sellers of local produce, we're lowering the fees as this was the entire purpose of the market."

Hunter recognizes the importance of the Thursday Market and said he is working hard in order to preserve one of the few showcases of CNMI culture that is available to tourists any time of the year.

"This is about the arts primarily in culture. The market has taken on a life of its own; it is important to a whole lot of people, it's important to stake-holders, the community loves it, it's great for our tourists, so it's something we don't want to see not continue, but if we're going to continue to operate it, it's something that we're going to need to tweak and we're going to need to bring the finances in line," concluded Hunter.

TORRES

From Page 1

the U.S. or prefer other political status options, explore and study alternative political status that favors and acceptable to the people of the Northern Marianas, and submit its final report on their findings and recommendations are the purpose of the law.

Torres said the CNMI's political status allows the Commonwealth enjoy a special relationship with the U.S. unlike any other place. He added the newly signed law is different from the ongoing 902 talks that only discuss issues like the planned military build up and immigration with the federal government through the Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs.

"It would emphasize the importance of the CNMI being part of the U.S. It is our people's choice that we became part of the U.S. We were not forced. The changes will also be by the choice of the people of the CNMI," said Torres in yesterday's proclamation signing declaring September as Cultural Heritage month.

"It gives us the opportunity to revisit our relationship with the U.S. For us, it is basically saying that we want to have a commission because when we had the covenant and passed it to be part of the U.S. that was done in that way," said Torres

"It is just to acknowledge that we have our own self government. We just also want to revisit the relationship and make it stronger. The 902 talks, is an avenue to discuss our issues, not just the relationship. Here in the political status, is all about relationship."

The people of the CNMI, in the early 1970s, chose not to seek independence but would rather have closer ties with the U.S. as a commonwealth in political union. The CNMI, after World War II, was under the Trust Territory in Micronesia administered by the U.S. like Guam and Palau.

The Covenant was established in a 1975 referendum after more than two years of negotiations. Close to 79 percent of the voters in the 1975 referendum voted in favor of the CNMI becoming a U.S. commonwealth.

The Covenant, in general, has U.S. federal laws apply also in the CNMI. The CNMI, however, is outside U.S. customs' jurisdiction and has its own local income tax system.

MICRONESIA

From Page 1

petition to Palau President Tommy Remengasau by having the chief executives of Palau, CNMI, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands sign a memorandum of agreement stating that all government travels between their islands should be put out to bid.

"If you guarantee revenues for an established carrier they would come," he said.

Wakai said the Request for Proposal could require that all bids have to come in 50 percent below the current regular fares.

Wakai cited an example that his recent eight-hour flight from Honolulu to Saipan cost $1,700.

He said he was on an eight-hour flight on United Airlines from Honolulu to Chicago two weeks before going to Saipan and the cost of airfare was $800.

The senator said United Airlines uses older planes and veteran staff to traverse Micronesia, so customers are not paying for better service.

"It's disturbing for the consumers. It's a pot of gold for United," Wakai said.

Under his proposal, Wakai said, his trip to Saipan two weeks ago should be $850 instead of $1,700.

He said Micronesia chief executives should make it a five-year contract with the chosen airline so it's worth a new airline's investment in the region.

The minimum wages for the five entities in Micronesia are $6.05 for the CNMI; $8.25 for Guam; $3.50 for Palau; $2 for RMI; and $1.25 for FSM.

At these wages, Wakai said he believes that 85 percent of off-island travel is funded by the governments or grants.

Wakai noted that there have been attempts to start small airlines to service the region, but they all failed because of the need for an established carrier to compete with Continental/United.

"If any of the chief executives balk at this idea, ask them to share a better plan," he said.

Wakai described United's pricing for flights throughout Micronesia as "astonishing."

"They are making significant profits on the backs of people who are economically challenged," the senator pointed out.

Wakai is currently the chairman of Hawaii State Senate's Committee on Economic Development and Technology and vice chairman of the Committee on Health. He is a member of the Committees on Agriculture, Commerce and Consumer Protection, and Higher Education and the Arts.

Wakai is founder of Reach Out Pacific, a Hawaii-based non-profit organization.

In June 2012, the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council presented Wakai with a commemorative resolution for shipping, through Reach Out Program, over $350,000 worth of medical and school supplies to the CNMI for nearly a decade.

HABITUAL

From Page 3

faith or bad faith of the prosecution."

Clark said the evidence in question is clearly Brady material and the government has suppressed the evidence.

Clark said it is Koichi's position that it is incredible as a matter of fact and law to believe that the witness came into court, under oath, and made up a story about being shown a photo lineup by Detective Taimanao.

Clark said it is for more believable that a detective with dozens of active cases made a mistake than it is to believe that the witness came into court and lied under oath.

Clark said allowing the case to proceed is not appropriate since Koichi has not had any opportunity to tailor his defense to include the favorable evidence suppressed by the government, which would have vast ripple effects on the entirety of Koichi's preparation and presentation of his case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 2

"As we commemorate the 15th anniversary of Sept, 11, and pay our respects to those who perished; we also need to remember our community heroes who made the choice to serve," she said. "Each of our heroes have made the oath to protect our lands, our air, our water, modes of transportation, and our people. As civilians, we get to celebrate our freedom because of the choice, the decision, that many men and women had made. It's our time to give thanks and show our appreciation for the daily sacrifice that each hero has made and continues to make."

Attao-Toves also invites everybody to join the event to pay homage to military personnel and various other heroes that makes the CNMI free.

"We invite the entire community to come and participate in the upcoming 'We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes.' Let us all remember all our heroes. Our veterans, our military servicemen and women, our firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and all first responders. When tragedy hits, and many are running for safety, it is these heroes who run in," said Attao-Toves.

The TSL-hosted event is still looking for major sponsors. "We are still accepting sponsorships. At the moment, we would like to acknowledge all the businesses who have contributed thus far," concluded Attao-Toves.

The event will be held on all three islands—Saipan at the CPA Airport Field, Tinian on the Fiesta Grounds, and Rota at the Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport.

Organizers behind the Field of Heroes event will sell 3'x5' American flags to the community with all proceeds donated to veterans and military personnel, law enforcement officers, and fire and first responders dealing with PTSD.

Title sponsors are Tan Holdings Corp. and the TSL Foundation. Major sponsor is Sorensen Media, and minor sponsors are IT&E, Bridge Capital LLC, GPPC, Star Marianas Air, Bank of Saipan, Express Financial, Bridge Investment Group, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Take Care, and Modern Stationery Supply.

PSS also recruiting bilingual teachers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI State Public School System is also short of teachers for their bilingual education program. The program requires all public schools to teach Chamorro and Carolinian languages to all grades as a way of preserving the indigenous language.

PSS associate commissioner for instructional services Jackie Quitugua said they have been doing their part in following what is required for them but getting qualified personnel is the biggest challenge.

"We are pretty much doing what is required for us but the only struggle that what I have mentioned is recruitment. Getting the personnel," Quitugua told *Saipan Tribune*.

"But not all schools have problems with bilingual teachers. There are some schools that are pretty much well set but the others are pretty much struggling when it comes to bilingual teachers."

She added that PSS has already put out request for proposals. "To see if there are members in our community who want to come and work for us and provide the services for our children."

Quitugua said that although they were not able to get the numbers that would address the shortage, PSS is working with those who are already teaching and those applicants who want to be part of the program.

"We work with those who come in and are revisiting other solutions to get the teaching personnel. We have standards and benchmarks, and trainings are ongoing. There are also regular meetings with our teachers to know their needs and get updates on the program," added Quitugua.

She said instructors in the bilingual education program have been creative in making sure they teach students of what is under the curriculum. "We are happy with what they've been doing in teaching the kids."

"Some schools have been creative and working out what they needed to do to be able to teach

We are happy with what they've been doing in teaching the kids. The continued support is there for our teachers and the school."

"That's why the actions and decisions [of PSS officials] want our schools and teachers to be provided with the materials needed under the bilingual language program," said Quitugua.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-018

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. *OMB Circular A-133*
2. *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
3. *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*

The date of contract award will be no later than September 15, 2016. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-16-018, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2016"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on September 9, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2016** to Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 with a copy to Joann Paraiso, CUC Acting Chief Financial Officer, via email address joanne.paraiso@cucgov.org and Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-020

ROTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Rota Water Supply Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the demolition of existing bldg. structure, fence, pipes, valves, including appurtenances, installation of new 6-inch, 8-inch, & 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, construction of new three wells bldg., chlorination building, booster pump building, the relocation and replacement of two existing pressure reducing valves (PRV's), the installation of a new PRV, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on August 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-16-020, Rota Water Supply Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 29, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, CUC Chief Engineer-Water/Wastewater-john.riegel@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant– marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

IN CASE TO DECLARE BUDGET ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Request to delay evidentiary hearing due to AAG's passing expected birth of AAG's first baby granted

The passing of assistant attorney general David Lochabay recently and the expected birth of the first baby of AAG Charles Brasington at any moment have prompted the parties in the two medical malpractice lawsuits to delay the evidentiary hearing pertaining to a request to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

Brasington, counsel for the CNMI government, and attorney Claire Kelleher-Smith, counsel for plaintiffs Jotonia B. Aguon and Timothy Cruz, and Gorjonny Camacho, requested the Superior Court on Thursday to reschedule the evidentiary hearing currently set on Sept. 9 to 21, 2016 to December 2016.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on that same day granted the parties' stipulation and set the evidentiary hearing for Dec. 5, 2016 at 9am.

Brasington and Kelleher-Smith disclosed in their stipulation that the two cases were handled by AAG Lochabay, who passed last Aug. 21.

The lawyers said the decline in Lochabay's health was sudden and not expected.

They said when the counsels last conferred with Lochabay about the scheduling in this case, he planned to be present as lead counsel at the evidentiary hearing.

Furthermore, Brasington and Keller-Smith said, Lochabay had many active cases and projects that have been reassigned.

The lawyers said this additional workload, when taken together, has put a significant strain on the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division.

The lawyers added that Brasington is expecting the birth of his first child at any moment and that since neither he or his fiancée have family on Saipan, he will need to take parental and annual leave to care for his fiancée and newborn.

Brasington and Kelleher-Smith said even though co-counsel will be assigned to continue facilitating discovery, the government requires additional time to finish providing the discovery materials.

Brasington's necessary absence, though temporary, will apparently further strain the resources of OAG's Civil Division.

Brasington had been assisting Lochabay with the case, and has been diligently working on providing discovery materials since the last status conference.

However, the parties said, some of the requested materials have been difficult to compile because they are not stored electronically, are only partially stored electronically, or are stored in a format that takes time to decipher.

They parties agreed that several records must also be manually retrieved from archives and reviewed.

Brasington and Kelleher-Smith said producing the requested documents requires the cooperation and coordination of other agencies and the legislative branch.

"These difficulties in document production have been compounded by the fact that many of these agencies, such as the Department of Finance, are also currently tasked with the government-wide audit and the annual budgeting process," the lawyers said.

They said these bottlenecks were not foreseen or expected by either party.

As such, the lawyers said, the materials have not yet been provided to plaintiffs thus, they have been unable to reschedule the government's deposition because the plaintiffs must have and review those discovery materials beforehand to conduct an effective deposition.

The parties have been cooperating in an amicable manner to ensure through discovery will establish such a record for the court.

The lawyers said plaintiffs will not have all of the evidence they need before the hearing as currently set.

Last June, the CNMI Supreme Court denied the government's petition to prevent Camacho from proceeding with a hearing pertaining to plaintiffs' request to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

The high court justices ruled that while they are tempted to halt Camacho's post-judgment proceedings, there is no order, at this juncture, directing the legislature to appropriate funds.

Last Feb. 8, Camacho issued an order, allowing the parties to call any witnesses at the evidentiary hearing who will be helpful in deciding the constitutionality of the 2016 Budget Act.

Camacho originally set the evidentiary hearing for May 9, 2016.

Attorney Michael Dotts has argued that the Budget Act of 2016 is unconstitutionally unbalanced under the CNMI Constitution because it did not provide for the payment of judgments in a reasonable amount.

Dotts is the lead counsel for plaintiffs Jotonia B. Aguon, Timothy Cruz, and Gorgonny Camacho.

Aguon and Cruz are holding a $35,000 judgment against the government in connection with their lawsuit over the death of their child at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Gorgonny Camacho is holding a $10,000 judgment against the government in connection with his medical malpractice lawsuit against CHC.

To collect payment of the two judgments that were entered in 2013, Dotts filed motions for orders in aid of judgment. He asked the Superior Court to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional. The two cases were consolidated.

Lochabay then argued, among other things, that Camacho's order directing the plaintiffs to file a stand-alone motion challenging the constitutionality of the 2016 Budget Act is clearly erroneous because the court lacks jurisdiction. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

High surf until Tuesday

CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point has issued a high surf advisory through Tuesday 6pm because swells generated from distant Typhoon Lion will cause hazardous surf and a high risk of rip currents along north and west facing reefs.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service-Tiyan in Guam, surf will be hazardous at 8 to 10 feet through Monday night along north and west facing reefs. It will then fall to 7 to 9 feet Tuesday before falling below hazardous levels Tuesday evening.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres is advising the general public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those facing north, as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard to conduct training at W-517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) today, Aug. 29, from 8am to 6:30pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Cop facing sexual abuse charges granted request for bail modification hearing on Rota

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday granted the request of Melvin Maratita Manglona, a Rota police officer facing charges for sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl, to hold a hearing on Rota to modify the $100,000 cash bail as his defendant's proposed third party custodian is unable to travel to Saipan.

At a hearing on Saipan, Camacho ruled that the court requires proposed third party custodian to be present in court.

The judge set the bail modification hearing for Oct. 7, 2016 at 10:30am at the Rota Courthouse.

Camacho ordered the Department of Corrections to bring Manglona to Rota at the bail modification hearing.

Camacho said the conditions of the bail order dated Aug. 17, 2016, still remains.

Arraignment will be today, Monday, at 9am.

Manglona, through counsel assistant public defender Tillman Clark, requested that the court modify the $100,000 cash bail to allow his release upon posting of a property bond through an appearance bond and a mortgage.

Clark proposed Augustine SN. Maratita, 58, to serve as third-party custodian.

A 10,000 square meters of land was offered as the property bond.

Clark said unfortunately, Maratita is unable to afford airfare to travel to and from Saipan and would be unable to pick up Manglona from the Department of Corrections.

"As such, in the interests of ensuring that the citizens of Rota enjoy the equal rights and privileges as citizens of Saipan and Tinian, Manglona respectfully requests that the court schedule this hearing on Rota at the soonest date available," said Clark in the motion for bail modification.

Under Commonwealth law, Clark said, all persons arrested from criminal offenses other than first degree murder "shall be entitled a matter of right to be released on bail" before trial.

At the Aug. 23 preliminary hearing, Camacho found probable cause to believe that the crimes of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace were committed and that the 48-year-old Manglona may have committed the offenses.

Camacho ordered Manglona to answer the charges.

The judge dismissed the charge of assault and battery because it is a lesser included offense of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

It means that it is not necessary to charge assault and battery as it is already included in sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley stated in the information that Manglona sexually abused the girl in July and Aug. 11, 2016 on Rota.

Foley said the defendant touched the girl's private part last Aug. 1, and caused her to have suicidal thoughts from July 2016 to Aug. 11, 2016.

A Rota police detective stated in her report that the girl revealed that Manglona has been sexually abusing her since she was 9 years old and that the recent sexual encounter happened just last Aug. 11. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Kia Forte LX retail price $17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.40% APR for 72 monthly payments of $234.53 or $108.25 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $16,886.20.
Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.40% APR for 72 monthly payments of $247.56 or $114.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,824.32.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-021

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRESTRESSED CONCRETE POWER POLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-16-021, Supply & Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 21, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email address- joe.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-022

LIFT STATION RENOVATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lift Station Renovation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the renovation and upgrade of the S-6, S-10, SR-1, and A-7 Sewer Lift Stations.

The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of wet wells, valve vaults, a bar screen and flow monitor vault, removal of existing pumps, pipes, fittings and appurtenances, installation of new pumps, guide rails, control panels, pipes and fittings, installation of a new fence and gate, the installation and operation of a temporary wastewater bypass system, and other related work.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 30, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

ONE (1) original and FIVE (5) hard copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-16-022, Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.
Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 1, 2016** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, W/WW Chief Engineer via email address-john.riegel@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez , W/WW Junior Engineer via email address-nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, W/WW Senior Engineer via email address-birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

New truck to address junk car issue

JON PEREZ

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, eighth left, joins House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), left, and staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office when they presented the new truck to the members of the House of Representatives last Thursday at the parking lot of the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office acquired a new truck that would help collect junk cars and put them in a holding area before being shipped off-island. The funding that bought the truck came from an appropriation by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) is the SNILD chair and they appropriated $136,000 to the Saipan Mayor's Office, which then purchased the truck from South Korea.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, along with field operations director Joan Aquino and safety officer Mac Chargualaf, presented the new truck to House of Representatives members.

Apatang said the truck, which has a claw, is the one that they needed to pick up the junk cars in some areas of the island. Some car owners, whose vehicles are either no longer working or have some problems, just abandon them.

"There have been a lot of complaints about junk cars and all other trash. We're going to use this for trash removal. So this is the one truck that can help us in picking up heavy trash," said Apatang during a recess in last Thursday's House session at the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

"We bought it from Korea. It is a special truck since it has a claw, where it can pick up [heavy] typhoon debris and junk cars around the island," added Apatang.

He said the truck would make things easier for them. "It will make things faster for us. The truck will claw the debris, load it, and then the trash will be taken to the landfill. Everything goes to the landfill."

"We have two staging areas before, one in Kagman and the other one in Koblerville. But we removed everything out and moved it all to the landfill," said Apatang, who added that they asked the Department of Public Lands, through Secretary Marianne Teregeyo, for a piece of land.

"We're working with DPL so they could give us a place in Lower Base where we can stock all of the junk cars temporarily until those guys that have junkyards can secure them and ship it off-island," Apatang said.

"We need to clean the community of junk cars because mosquitoes use it as a breeding ground and rats as a nesting place."

He thanked SNILD for their assistance and again wrote Sablan for additional help in providing the money to purchase one more truck. "I already wrote a letter to the local delegation. I'm still looking for another truck where the delegation could help me out."

"This is a truck that would help cut trees and branches that are almost near the phone and power lines. It is like a bucket truck just like the one used by [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] but smaller. We don't want the big one, the smaller one is enough."

Apatang said the truck, which costs $190,000, would help them respond to numerous calls by Saipan residents who ask for assistance in cutting trees.

"A lot of people are calling our office and asking us to cut and trim their trees that is next to their houses. You can always call our office if there are also fallen trees that you need to be picked up."

Naval Base Guam to conduct Citadel Pacific

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG), along with various Navy first responders will participate in the annual Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC) anti-terrorism exercise called Citadel Pacific 2016 (CP16), Aug. 29-Sept. 2.

The exercise involves various training scenarios that replicate real-world events, and is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units. CP16 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

During CP16, first responders will have to react to a crisis, which may result in elevating the Force Protection Condition (FPCON) of the base. Residents and patrons are advised that during the week the FPCON will change, requiring full ID card checks at the gates. Additionally, the Trusted Traveler program – a program that authorizes DoD ID card holders to escort guests onto NBG – will be suspended during the higher FPCON. All vehicle occupants will be required to provide an approved base access credential.

There is the possibility of increased patrols and security activity on and around NBG as a result of this planned exercise. Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access.

As part of the exercise, the NBG Giant Voice (GV) system will be activated, and residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers will hear exercise announcements regarding Force Protection Conditions throughout the week. This is just an exercise, and the use of the GV system adds realism to the events for the week. ***(PR)***

Japan's *Asahi Shimbun* coming to Saipan, Tinian

One of Japan's largest nationwide newspapers will be in the Northern Mariana Islands on Aug. 27-28, 2016, for a feature to be shared in September with their 6.6 million readership.

Asahi Shimbun will send a journalist and photojournalist to cover Saipan and Tinian with aerial photos of World War II and sightseeing sites.

"We're pleased to welcome *Asahi Shimbun* back to the Northern Marianas for another story," said Marianas Visitors Authority Marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "This is just one example of how our marketing team is able to negotiate valuable media coverage for the NMI at very small cost to us. Thanks to a photo shooting permit provided by the Dept. of Public Lands, the NMI will receive approximately $180,000 in ad exposure through this upcoming article."

The feature will include Obyan Beach, the Japanese-era jail and hospital in Garapan, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, Last Command Post, plus the atomic bomb pits at North Field and other historic sites on Tinian. The beach in Chalan Kanoa and picturesque flame trees will also be featured. ***(PR)***

BankGuam Holding Company declares 3rd quarter dividends

BankGuam Holding Company (BKGMF) announced that its Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of $0.10 per share at its board's regular meeting held on Monday, Aug. 22, 2016. The dividend will be paid on Sept. 30, 2016, to shareholders of record as of Sept. 15, 2016.

» Founding board member Dr. Ralph G. Sablan retires, Mark J. Sablan appointed

BankGuamHolding Company president and chair of the board, Lou A. Leon Guerrero stated, "I am happy to report that we have met our financial performance for this quarter, thus allowing us to once again provide a return on our shareholder's investment."

BankGuam Holding also announced the retirement of Dr. Ralph G. Sablan, one of Bank of Guam's founding board members, effective July 31, 2016. Mark J. Sablan, son of Dr. Sablan, was appointed to the board. Mark J. Sablan, vice president of Business Development and Community Affairs for South Pacific Petroleum Corp. since 2000, is a 26-year veteran of the local petroleum industry and worked for Bank of Guam from 1982-1990. An active community participant, Sablan is the previous chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and past president of the Navy League of the U.S.-Guam Council. ***(PR)***

BSI DONATES TO CHINESE ASSOCIATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. extended its assistance to the Chinese Association of Saipan's ongoing advocacy and education program through their Chinese Education Center. Best Sunshine Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz presented the company's donation of $1,000 to Chinese Association of Saipan board director Ta Bun Kuy and staff Owen Ji.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET
FIELD OF HEROES
15th Anniversary of September 11th
This community event will be an opportunity for family members to honor and support our Veterans/Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire and 1st Responders by purchasing a 3'x5' American flag ($20), in their honor.
This community event will be hosted on all 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota.)
Dates to Remember:
Monday, September 5th - Sites set up
Tuesday, September 6th - Opening Ceremony
Sunday, September 11th - 9/11 Memorial Ceremony
Tuesday, September 13th - Closing Ceremony
Flags will be given to sponsored families after the closing ceremony.
Field of Heroes Site:
Saipan - CPA Airport Field
Tinian - Fiesta Grounds
Rota - Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport
FLAGS AND SHIRT ORDERS AND PAYMENTS CAN BE RECEIVED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
SAIPAN:
iShop at Fiesta Resort
iShop at Kanoa Resort
iShop at Paseo de Marianas
Shirley's Coffee Shop, Susupe
Shirley's Coffee Shop, Garapan
TINIAN:
Mayor's Office
ROTA:
Mayor's Office
FLAG = $20 each
EVENT SHIRT = $15 each
or GET (1) FLAG + (1) EVENT SHIRT
FOR ONLY $30
TITLE SPONSORS:
Tan Holdings
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
MAJOR SPONSOR:
POWER 99 FM
SAIPAN, CNMI
MINOR SPONSORS:
IT&E Life In Motion
BIG
BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
GPPC INC
STAR Marianas Air
BANK OF SAIPAN
EXPRESS FINANCIAL
Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Bank of Hawaii
TakeCare
Marianas Variety
Modern Stationery & Trading Co. Inc.
dba MODERN OFFICE SUPPLY
All proceed will go towards providing local support for our Veterans, Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers Fire and 1st Responders in dealing with Post Traumatic Stress
www.tanholdings.com

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 171

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EDITORIAL

Expect reaction to US military action in Somalia

Increasing operations involving U.S. Special Forces in Somalia raise serious risks for Americans at home.

The United States has been dabbling militarily in Somalia since late 1992, when then-President George H.W. Bush, in response to what was evolving into a tragic humanitarian crisis, over Thanksgiving agreed to put U.S. forces into the northeastern African nation to try to stabilize it to permit the delivery of food, medical and other assistance. Somalia had not had a government in place in its capital, Mogadishu, since January 1991. Bush's successor, Bill Clinton, withdrew almost all U.S. forces from Somalia in 1994 after the fatal "Black Hawk Down" incident, with the departure of the rest occurring in 1995.

Somalia still does not have an accepted, elected government in place. Elections are supposed to take place this year, but continuing circumstances of insecurity suggest that, if they take place, they will be very indirect elections, with Somali clan elders selecting delegates who will then choose a president and members of parliament. Whatever government emerges from these maneuvers will resemble the current one, chosen out of the country by clan-based delegates with uncertain popular mandates.

In the meantime, the United States, in the form of the U.S. military Africa Command, has continued to expand a base in Djibouti, the former French Somaliland, bordering on actual Somalia. The installation in Djibouti includes thousands of U.S. troops, fighter bombers and a drone station. Press reports indicate that American forces, as recently as last Wednesday, participated with Somali forces in an attack on the forces of the externally imposed Somali government's opponent, Al-Shabab, at Saakow in southern Somalia, killing some.

There are at least two problems with this action and comparable operations carried out against Al-Shabab. There is, first of all, the question of the wisdom of continued U.S. efforts to determine governance in Somalia, after 24 years of expensive, unfruitful involvement.

Second, it is important to understand Somalis in general, many of whom have now settled in the United States, particularly in Minnesota but also even in Washington, D.C. Somalis as a people have a strong sense of family and clan loyalty, which includes obligatory revenge for killings. If a member of a Somali family or clan kills a member of another, either a reciprocal killing or carefully negotiated financial compensation is automatically required. Given that many Somalis now live in the United States, and some have traveled back to Somalia to participate in combat on the side of Al-Shabab, Americans at home — on the basis of U.S. Special Forces' actions in Somalia — risk the required retribution taking place on American soil.

That reality calls either for changing policy and letting the Somalis work out their own destiny and governance, free of U.S. military action, or bracing Americans for likely, even imminent, revenge exacted on U.S. soil. The situation is dangerous, and it is not clear that Washington understands what is at stake.

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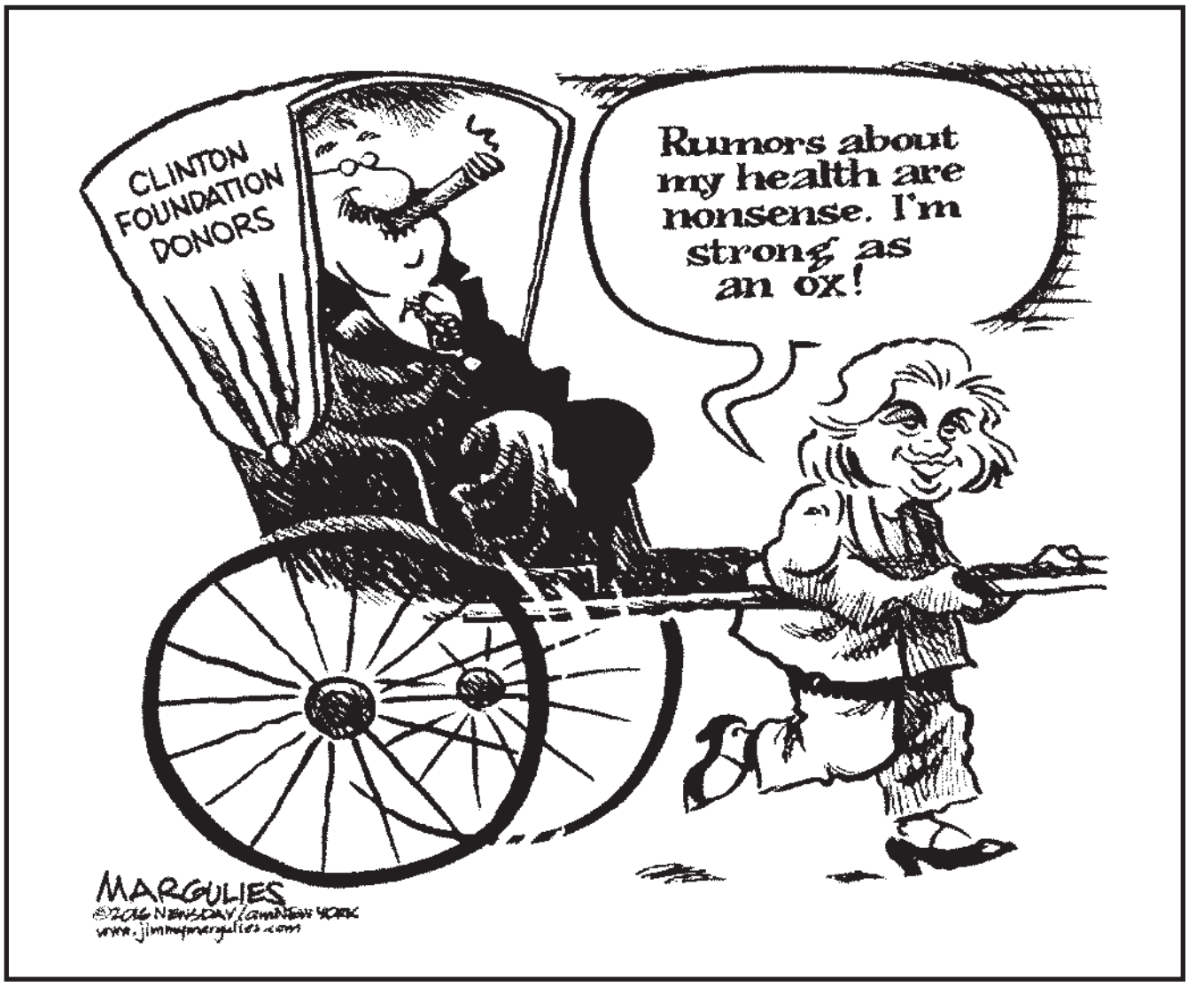
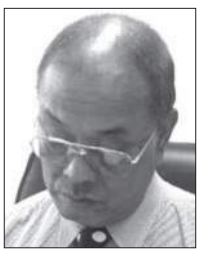


Poll: 72 pct pro-independent

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

A poll conducted by Marianas Agupa (radio program) here has some very interesting results. The question posted was: whom would you vote for this November?

Some 72 percent said they'd be voting for Independent candidates, six percent aren't voting and two percent for republicans.

It's a plus for independent candidates though not all and woefully bad tidings for Republicans the latter boasting abysmal record and failure. I surmise most would be defeated this November. Yep! Must change fossilized representation stuck in its own interest at our expense.

Recent introduction of a measure to fill their pockets isn't helping Republicans any. Is there anything else new under a highly suspect leadership that completely ignores the livelihood of our people?

It's indicative of the wide support for independent trade horses over the tired and exhausted republicans. Coupled with irreparable disunity I'd be a worried sick if I were a Republican or independent incumbent.

Magoo said that it's a delayed reaction where party heads from the fractious GOP failed to see the powerful tsunami of mass destruction headed to shore. It's all tired *biba* turned *biliba*! Imagine trying to rearrange the chairs on the deck when the boat is at the bottom of the Marianas Trench. Did I hear realignment of sort somewhere?

Sad bird songs at dawn

Bird chirps are the sounds of joy at dawn. It signals the beginning of a new day in paradise. This morning though it sounded melancholic or sad and particularly mournful too. I retreated to the silent corners of my mind to figure out the shift in mood of my feathered friends.

Up ahead, I saw an immaculate white dove flying beneath the overcast skies of paradise. It's a symbol of leaders who usually fly alone. It was also a symbol of hope. At least, there's something to latch on amidst the deepening economic mess and its accompanying sense of hopelessness at home.

We seemed to have been conned into believing the economy is on the rebound. I call it economic bigotry where family income remains the same all these years. And you're preaching otherwise when familial hardship stands center stage in households everywhere?

Have we subscribed to wishful thinking, herd mentality, wildebeest syndrome, or bias reinforcement for failing to critically probe the beast? Do we prolong the illusion of everything's honky dory? But aren't agencies considering borrowing on their own, e.g., Judiciary, NMC, and others? Assertion of economic growth is asymmetrical or doesn't follow!

Leadership is the missing metric in the deepening mess substituted by a full-blown agenda of political expediency focused on re-election. Do you have a successful economic plan that has factually lifted all boats? Would your eventual harvest be a bounty or a nightmarish scarcity? It's all in what legacy you've planted in your garden, right? There's none in the field.

Even a retreat and reassessment aren't going to do any good at all. The parade has left!

Paradise in ruins

With the evacuation of more than 3,000 of our people to Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland some six years ago, I couldn't fathom the idea how each family had to endure moving elsewhere in search of greener pasture. This was prompted by the lack of opportunities at home.

This is the ugly trophy of Republicans (Achilles Heel) and refuses to see it displayed and scrutinized to their detriment! The damage is horrendous and if it's only worried of its image, has it ever considered the hellish hole it has created for our very own people?

Shallow politicians and loyal friends must dig down deep into their conscience to see if their failure in the dislocation and evacuation of our people is morally right. Is it right to force families to withdraw lifetime savings in order to look for opportunities elsewhere away from paradise?

I've met some of these folks in San Diego and Texas though respectful at Republican candidates' stiff face looking for votes. It was a futile effort for the GOP troops what with a legacy of a

See POLL on Page 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The budget, PSS, our courts, and marijuana education

Given the budget, PSS and the new Drug Court are front and center in today's news and talk over the Coconut Wire over money issues I thought it would be only fitting and proper to remind readers that I told you so about the legalization of marijuana. The CNMI has literally been facing a budget crisis for over a decade even though we have passed budgets. When the President went public on legalization and criminal justice reform over two years ago I was also inspired to go public to support legalization and I told readers then that if our leaders truly wanted to end this continuing cycle of budget crisis that we should legalize marijuana, which is a billion dollar industry and growing by leaps and bounds almost daily.

Well, here we are again arguing over a limited supply of funding that is not enough to do what needs to be done and the question is why isn't there anything on the table or the drawing board to bring about an end to our suffering economically. We all know the casino is not and will not be the total solution and yet it seems we are playing politics with the one thing that is on the horizon that has the potential to be the final solution in concert with the casino—legalization. Not only are we arguing over the budget, PSS and the criminal justice system are being forced to borrow more money that our budget and revenues are not prepared to pay back and we are already in debt up to our necks in the hundreds of millions! We continue to put our debts off on our children's future with our inability to pay for our needs today instead of doing the work to generate new revenues like every citizen and especially parents who are forced to find a way to earn more money. We the people who are for legalization are not asking our government to do any more than we have to do ourselves—but the problem is the lack of political willpower!

I put my heart into trying to help the people of the CNMI over the past two decades. More recently I even stayed out of the newspapers for the most part in an attempt to work behind the scenes trying to convince our leaders to not delay and to act expeditiously on putting legalization on the ballot this year like 23 other states have done. But it seems the powers-that-be have decided to play with me and voters by making legalization a political football game for re-election with no score for the people. The issue is now going in circles like a dog chasing its tail instead of doing the work to get legislation on the ballot for the people to decide upon. All I can say without pointing a finger is that conducting Senate hearings during election season on a marijuana bill that won't get to the people for another two years is a bunch of "you know what" and if you don't know what it is you need to ask someone who does know! But you can count on me that I won't give up progress and I now have two more years to at least make sure we get legalization RIGHT! The average citizen doesn't know the present bill has ignored critical research on the controls and enforcement.

I just feel sorry for our education system, our criminal justice system and the people in general who are literally being ignored for election season politics. But it wouldn't be this way if PSS, the judicial system, and community leaders would speak up and do more to compel our leaders to act on legalization. The leaders of the Judicial Branch truly needs to speak out on this issue as they have to know our president and U.S. Attorney General are pleading with states to reform criminal justice systems. Reforms designed to decrease prison populations and to allow for states to legalize marijuana and stop locking up people, especially youth, for marijuana use. Someone in the criminal justice system really needs to fight for what is right and just publicly given the truths we have learned about marijuana. I refuse to believe that our judges don't care about the president's plea to reform the justice system. I refuse to believe the Drug Court wants to deal with frivolous marijuana crimes that are outdated in America. I refuse to believe that our judges don't care that illegal marijuana is now a major medium of exchange for "ice" instead of cash. I refuse to believe that our judges don't care that they are putting a financial burden on our children by borrowing money that could come from the sale of marijuana? I refuse to believe that our judges want to spend time on marijuana crimes when "ice" crime is taking over. I refuse to believe that law enforcement wants to be bothered and hampered with frivolous marijuana crimes when they need to be chasing "ice" and the real criminals! I refuse to believe that some of the smartest people in our government are just going to sit back and say nothing to help the people or their branch of government. The people really need for someone in the criminal justice branch to speak up as your voice will weigh much more heavily on our leaders—please!

PSS also needs someone to speak up about the need to legalize marijuana. Marijuana is no longer a taboo issue like homosexuality once was and it wasn't until homosexuality was completely out of the closet that we the people started to learn how to live with and deal with homosexuality. We must get marijuana out of the closet so we can educate our children and teach them how they should deal with marijuana as kids are not stupid and telling them the lie that marijuana is dangerous won't work anymore—they know better. PSS is technically the "third" parent of our children as some children even spend more time with their teacher than they do their parents. I know from experience as I had a student to ask me how she should tell her parents she was pregnant because she didn't know how or what to do. PSS must address the parenting responsibilities of education on marijuana use that can only be addressed properly once it is legalized.

On a personal note: I genuinely tried to help PSS by authoring a textbook and other educational materials and as a board member but I was fought against by a previous board member who thought I could not contribute or write local educational materials because "I was not local"—so sad. Yet our children are still not being educated from a local perspective just following the perspective of U.S. mainland-based textbooks that don't even mention the CNMI and we wonder why the culture is dying. I also tried to help the board with making sure we never had a problem with teachers nor a teacher shortage like PSS has continued to experience and now the teacher population has reach a critically low level. Teachers need to be protected in their job if PSS truly wants to retain teachers. PSS should have established the "feeder institutions" at various colleges and universities as I suggested because it would all but guarantee a constant and limitless supply of teachers.

Finally, PSS needs to become the leader in transforming the local workforce to replace the alien workers by shifting to a vocational and academic curriculum as an estimated 70 to 80 percent of our graduates don't have a real plan for college. I actually offered the ideal research-based and proven public service program that would cover all the professions and skills in addition to decreasing the teacher demand but it was also shot down. I have always said that time was on my side and just maybe now the board is willing to listen given I am being proven right and that I am also the only other person other than Dr. Sablan who has been certified by the Board of Education as being qualified to be the Commissioner of Education. PSS needs new revenues and supporting legalization will transform PSS like the Colorado school system that is now literally over funded thanks to legalization and their students did not go crazy smoking pot. Credentials are great but a people person with vision who is a fighter and culturally oriented is what PSS truly needs as a leader, not a Phd from the mainland with a lot of credentials but doesn't know the first thing about the culture, the people, our politics and most importantly our children. I am hoping and praying for the sake of our children that the next commissioner will be a fighter for PSS and out spoken in supporting legalization. We must free ourselves through legalization to progress as humans who can openly educate ourselves and our children about marijuana.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

POEM

HRC TEXTING TALE

By JOSEPH CONNOLLY

For Billy D. who made me see need for poems on Hillary

Oh that Hilly she's a dilly got a hubby name of
Billy former prez quite a male we learned that
in a recently released email Hillary sent many
got in trouble with her email accounts she had
a double site one her own one the states and she
used them day and night turns out that was not
too bright or great her fates examined by the
FBI but lucky her some nice guy just let her
go gotta wonder why then she released not quite
all her files and got off the hook watch her big
league smiles running now against a rich guy good
at dealing yes she broke a glass ceiling now can't
stop on presidential power her mind is reeling
she needs a new attorney and sure misses Bernie.
as her campaign takes a new turn 'feel the learn'

Joseph "Pepe Batbon" B. Connolly is a retired CNMI PSS schoolteacher who taught English on Tinian and Saipan from 1984 to 2014. Before coming to Tinian he taught at a psychiatric hospital in New Orleans and after leaving Hopwood Junior High School he taught at a Magnet School for Mathematics and Science in Las Vegas. Graduate studies in English, Education, and Chinese language have taken him to New York, Alaska, England, Nevada, and Shanghai, China. He currently enjoys studying cosmology, Asian poetry, and life on Tinian.

What was the extra $40K for?

I noticed that the Guam Legislature is posting the Government of Guam annual budget on line for everyone to read in detail. Would it be possible for our Legislature to do the same?

Along the same line, I believe the CNMI Legislature now falls under the Open Government Act. Lt. Gov. Hocog recently gave the Tinian Legislative Delegation a supplemental $40,000 for the last two months before the election. Would it be possible for the executive director of the CNMI Legislature to post the expenditures made by the Tinian Legislative Delegation to date from the very ample budget they received in this year's annual budget? The Tinian voters deserve to know how these funds were spent, and exactly why the delegation needed an additional $40,000 just before the election.

Don Farrell
Tinian

POLL

From Page 10

hellish hole here. Bad!

Expanding private industry:

An interesting issue that came up during conversations with folks in the U.S. mainland is the scarcity of meaningful private jobs between Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Most jobs are in municipal governments and the NMI making it the largest employment industry.

Thus, the total reliance on political jobs where one literally sells heart, mind and soul to the company store completely stripped of personal dignity. The employment venue could easily become the seat of corruption that simply ignores the essence of education in favor of servile loyalty from A-Z. I smell a rat, filthy in all its form and substance.

Scarce opportunities

How sad it is to see our educated young minds heading elsewhere in search of meaningful employment. Opportunities for meaningful career here—beyond government—is non-existent. Leaving home is the only exit door to opportunities beyond the islands.

Besides good paying jobs, there are also opportunities for professional development known as "continuing education." Eventually, they'd find good neighborhoods to settle down, e.g., purchase of homes in communities that are equipped with good schools, hospitals, etc. Sad.

Truth moves mountains

With republican legislators preparing legislation to change casino law so they and family members could be hired at Best Sunshine, I wonder if the amendment shouldn't include those of us who are not politically powerful to fight for ourselves?

Moreover, what prompted the planned amendment for self-aggrandizement? Have you been guaranteed employment with BSI? Or is this a way to legitimize salaries today for siblings, spouses or relatives now on the payroll?

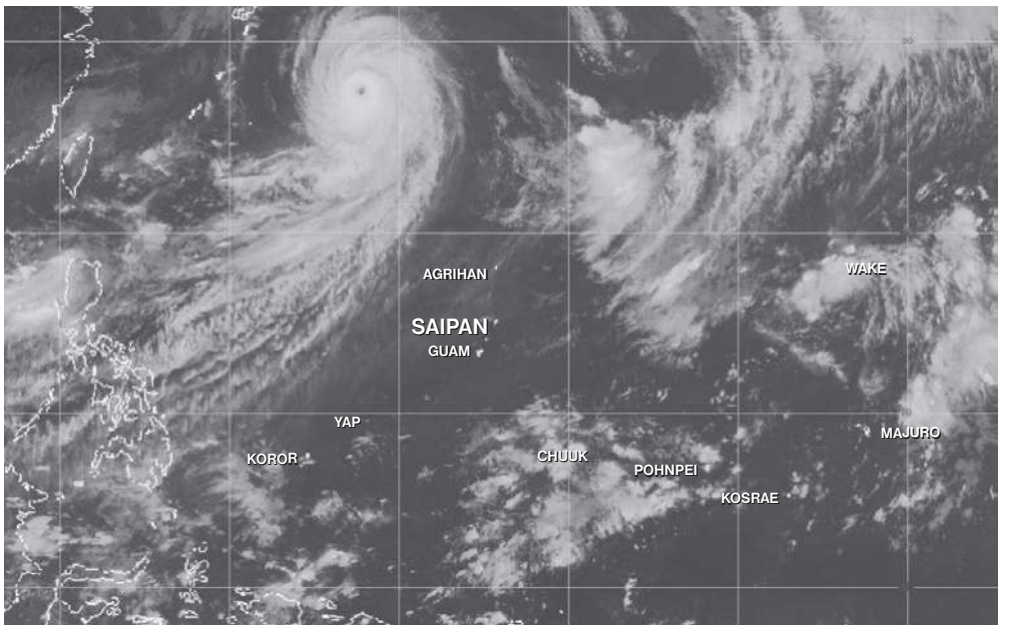
I may be alone in my quest to convey the truth in the interest of the innocent and ordinary people. But I equally know that none of the legislators on the hill are saviors of the people. And the truth definitely moves mountains!

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. A slight chance of afternoon thunderstorms for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:33 AM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Updated winds with new model data. Scatterometer data from Saturday night showed the axis of a ridge of high pressure over Guam. VAD winds from 2kft this morning indicated winds were variable and less than 5 knots. Winds on the VAD between 3 and 10 kft depicted light southerly winds. Sounding data from 12Z last night showed higher winds…20 mph or higher from 400 mb and up. Models keep the ridge near the local area through at least Tuesday. The proximity of the ridge will keep surface winds light across the Marianas. Expect south to southwest winds of 5 to 10 mph through Monday night. The ridge axis will sink south and this will allow surface winds to increase slightly Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Palau	Afternoon clouds	78 / 87 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Chuuk	Broken clouds	78 / 88 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	83 / 87 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	80 / 87 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Light rain	49 / 55 °F
Beijing	High level clouds	60 / 87 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	75 / 82 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	72 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	60 / 72 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	64 / 88 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	49 / 64 °F
Miami	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 84 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	72 / 90 °F
Osaka	Mostly cloudy	72 / 83 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	64 / 77 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	67 / 77 °F
Rome	Sunny	60 / 90 °F
Salem	Light showers	56 / 79 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	58 / 67 °F
Seoul	Morning clouds	65 / 80 °F
Tokyo	Passing showers	75 / 83 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	67 / 90 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
4:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81 Feet
11:35 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.16 Feet
6:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79 Feet
-	-	-

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	2:59 AM	4:04 PM
Tuesday	3:54 AM	4:54 PM
Wednesday	4:48 AM	5:40 PM
Thursday	5:41 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	7:05 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

SBDC caps Aug. with more free business seminars on Saipan

The Department of Commerce's CNMI Small Business Development Center, through the Small Business Administration, offers free business seminars "Obtaining a DUNS Number, Registering in SAM, & Updating your SBA Profile" from 9am to 10am and "Government Contracting 101-Small Business Contracting Programs" from 10am to 11am on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2016 at the Northern Marianas College (Room D1).

DUNS stand for "Data Universal Numbering System" and it is a unique nine-character identification number used to identify business entities on a location-specific basis. The SAM, which stands for System for Award Management, is the official U.S. government database system that vendors need to register with in order to do business with the federal government. Having all these in place will give vendors the opportunity for their SBA (Small Business Administration) Profile to be created electronically to be used as a marketing tool for small firms. To obtain a DUNS number, to register and maintain your entity with SAM, and to create and update your profile with SBA is all free.

Boris Hertslet, program manager for Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center, will present on understanding the need for a DUNS number and registering it in SAM in order to sell your product or service to the Federal Government. Tips and solutions will be discussed since these registrations pose unique challenges to CNMI based businesses. This seminar will also show you how to set up and update your SBA profile since this is a great marketing tool for businesses.

On the other hand, Ken Lujan, SBA's Guam branch manager, will present on a training program designed to help small businesses understand government contracting programs. This seminar will also help small firms on how to better prepare themselves when applying for federal contracts by knowing the basics of federal contracting.

These seminars are brought to you by the CNMI SBDC and the Northern Marianas College with the support of the Commonwealth Development Authority, CNMI Department of Commerce, Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), and the KKMP local radio station.

Deadline to pre-register is one business day before seminar at 12pm. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required (this is on a first-come, first-serve basis). Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is a member of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network. Its mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated islands in the Western Pacific by providing free one-to-one, confidential business counseling and high quality training to existing and prospective small businesses.

For more information about registering for these seminars, please contact Orrin Pharmin at orrin@pacificsbdc.com or the CNMI SBDC Office in Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018/3000. ***(PR)***

Family Grief Support Group to meet on Sept. 1

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Sept. 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPA-SI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

Compassionate Friends of Saipan offers understanding and hope to parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause.

It provides a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences while respecting and supporting each other, and listening.

"We have been there. We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no right way to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen," a statement from the group read.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

ALUMKNIGHTS GIVE BACK TO ALMA MATER

This year, Mount Carmel School's 1976 AlumKnights held joint 40th class reunion activities with their friends from the Marianas High School Class of 1976, in which they raised funds to donate to their alma maters. Representatives from the Class of 1976 recently dropped by to present their donation to Mount Carmel School. From left, Principal Frances Taimanao, Absalon Waki, Maggie Villagomez, Nita San Nicolas, Dianalyn Tesiro, Juan Borja, Prescilla Dela Cruz, and president Galvin Deleon Guerrero. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

POWER PLANTS 1 AND 4
SAIPAN COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
PW 85, DR-4235-MP

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) intends to provide federal financial assistance under the Public Assistance program to the Saipan Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), through the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Emergency Management Agency to restore and protect facilities at the Power Plants 1 and 4 on Saipan (proposed action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The proposed action would occur at two locations, one in the Village of Lower Base (Power Plant 1) and one in Puerto Rico (Power Plant 4), Saipan, CNMI. The project area is depicted on the CNMI Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 6900000032C, effective date April 3, 2006. The FIRM shows that the project area is in Zone AE, an area with a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and an established base flood elevation of 6 feet.

The purpose of the proposed action is to restore and protect the power plant facilities, Power plant 1 at Lower Base and Power plant 4 at Puerto Rico. With new systems station service power can be restored immediately to initiate the full power plant operation. These facilities were damaged by winds and rain associated with Typhoon Soudelor, which caused damage throughout CNMI between August 1 and 3, 2015. The proposed action would replace the damaged generators at both power plant facilities. In addition, CUC proposes to repair the typhoon damage to the structure, roof and wall panels of the power plant facilities, Power plant 1 & 2 and 4. A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Any party interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at the address or phone number below.

FEMA has determined that the proposed action is the only feasible alternative available to CUC. The proposed action would not adversely affect the floodplain and would benefit the public by restoring power supply to the community including critical facilities such as the main hospital. CUC believes the slab for the generator once completed will be at an elevation of 10 feet above sea level, at power plant 1. At power plant 4, this is not a concern as it is at least 30 feet above sea level. Further mitigation is not necessary. The proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards. CUC is responsible for implementing and monitoring the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be obtained by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov, or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than September 12, 2016. No action will be taken before this date.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AUCTION NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID :
011 G 1243	KAGMAN III, KAMAS ST., CORNER KAHET AVE., SAIPAN	$32,000.00
010 K 169	SIRENA AVE., DANDAN, SAIPAN	$30,000.00
005 I 129	POTU COURT, KOBLERVILLE, SAIPAN	$43,000.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, September 19, 2016 subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property is as indicated above.
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for these properties listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC. Also, failure to deposit the 10% of the purchase price on the same day will subject NMHC to award the winning bid to the next highest bidder. All auction terms and rules must apply to the next highest bidder.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2016.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

BSI offers resident employment program

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An artist's rendition of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC's Grand Mariana Casino and Resort, which is set to open next year. Subsidiary Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is set to launch a program to train baccarat dealers to the soon-to-open property.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. will launch a unique and exciting opportunity for qualified individuals with no previous casino experience to acquire certified skills and be guaranteed employment within the company, the largest private sector employer in the CNMI.

The Baccarat Dealing Class, under the Resident Employment Program will incorporate a comprehensive training course which will outline baccarat gaming, general gaming procedures, Baccarat equipment and gaming rules, card shuffling rules and procedures, casino service standards, game security and protection, among others.

According to Bertha Leon Guerrero, Best Sunshine's vice president of Human Resources, the Baccarat training program at Imperial Pacific International Academy starts on Sept 19.

Leon Guerrero said, "We put out an announcement indicating that we are accepting interested applicants who want to participate in this program. We initially put a deadline for the submission to register, but we reweighed that decision and removed that deadline to open it and invite anyone interested."

The baccarat class will hold a maximum of 30 registrants and the program is for baccarat. Adding up to a total of 160 hours, classes are held at the 4th floor of Bank of Guam Bldg. at the Imperial Pacific Int'l. Academy, from 6pm to 10 pm with a 30-minute break in between; four hours a day, from Monday to Friday. The reason for the evening schedule is to allow flexibility and accommodation to college students or full-time workers who might consider a second opportunity at learning new skills at a more adaptable time.

"This training program is open to U.S. citizens," affirmed Leon Guerrero. "We have to come up with ideas and methods to comply with the licensing requirement where we make sure we go through every effort in bringing in U.S. citizens to work. Our response is quite aggressive because our license requires 65 percent versus the regular statute that is 30 percent. Though we understand that we don't have those skills right now, we are certainly doing something about it. So if we get asked, "What are you doing to make sure you have those skills prepared and all ready before you open your doors?" we are providing that great opportunity to build these skills throughout the local workforce. We're starting with Baccarat classes and when these individuals succeed and pass the training, that's a guarantee of employment into the company."

Leon Guerrero added, "Of course, the training doesn't stop there; there will be other table games such as Blackjack, etc., and when the applicants are in already they can continue to receive intensive coaching and learn new dealing skills. We start with baccarat initially because this is reputedly the most popular and the most played by our visitors, and the game of choice of the casino's high rollers. Not only are we acknowledging the CCC requirement on the effort to boost the training of U.S. citizens and locals, but it's also in compliance to the Department of Labor's workforce plan. This is something we put together to show what we are doing for U.S. citizens to fill in the foreign CW positions. That's what this whole program is all about." ***(PR)***

UOG to host forum on decolonization

The University of Guam Division of Social Work and Chamorro Studies Program at present the latest in their Community Forum Series: "From New Caledonia to Guahan: Status Updates on the Decolonization Process."

Camacho

The focus of this joint effort, targeted primarily at students, is to help develop a deeper understanding of decolonization, since many will vote in the near future, said Assistant Professor of Social Work Dr. Lisalinda Natividad.

"The whole reason why we do this is to reach the student population so that they become informed and recognize the importance of this unresolved issue," she said.

The forum will feature two guest speakers, journalist and researcher Nic Maclellan and attorney Leevin Camacho. Maclellan writes for *Islands Business* magazine in Fiji and has written widely on issues pertaining to the decolonization process in New Caledonia. Camacho is an advocate for the preservation of Guam lands, the environment, and Chamorro culture and successfully assisted We Are Guahan and the Guam Preservation Trust in their lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Defense over the proposed buildup and use of Pågat as a live round training and firing range by the U.S. military.

Maclellan

The forum will be held on Thursday, Sept. 1 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the University of Guam College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) Lecture Hall.

For more information, contact Dr. Lisalinda Natividad at natividadl@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE
Amendment #02

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Vice-Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the recessed Special Board Meeting on Monday, July 18, 2016 – 5:30 p.m., will resume on **Wednesday, August 31, 2016, 5:30 p.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes - February 10, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - February 25, 2016 Special Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. Properties for Sale
- b. Personnel Matters
- c. FY 2015 Audit

IV. OLD BUSINESS
- a. Garapan Annex
- b. RD Update
- c. Adoption of the Amendments to the Section 8 Admin Plan

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Loan Assistance
- b. NMHC Procurement Regulations
- c. Travel Policy
- d. Reprogramming Authority

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **IGNACIO L. PEREZ**
Vice-Chairman of the Board

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Notice to the General Public
Mihaville and Koblerville Subdivisions
(August 29, 2016)

Pursuant to *Section IX: Waiting List Management* of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) revised *Tenant Selection Plan,* NMHC wants to respectfully inform the general public of the following:

- NMHC is opening its 2 Bedroom Unit Applicant Waiting List for its Saipan-based Section 8 New Construction Multifamily Program and will begin accepting applications on August 29, 2015. Applications can be picked up and submitted at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan during regular operational hours – Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, except holidays.

NMHC Housing Specialists will review and process the applications by date and time received, and will formally contact applicants to schedule an eligibility appointment.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to David Chargualaf, Program and Housing Division Manager, or Melinda Babauta at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan at Tel. Nos. 234-6866 or 234-9447 or via email at phdmanager@nmhcgov.net and housingspecialistncp@nmhcgov.net respectively.

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Notice to the General Public
Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
(August 23, 2016)

Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently published FY 2016 Fair Market Rent (FMR), which took effect on December 11, 2015, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) hereby reminds the general public that there was a decrease in the FY 2016 FMR. Initially, NMHC's FY 2016 Payment Standards was only effective for all FY 2016 New Admission and Other Change-of-Unit (Unit Transfer) certifications that occurred after December 11, 2015.

Based on 24 CFR 982.505, for participants undergoing an annual recertification, the FY 2016 Payment Standards shall take effect for the family beginning at the effective date of the family's second regular reexamination following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard amount. Therefore, NMHC is respectfully informing the general public that the FY 2016 Payment Standards shall continue to be effective for all FY 2016 New Admission and Other Change-of-Unit (Unit Transfer) certifications and **will now be effective for HCVP participants undergoing their second regular reexamination (annual recertification)** following the effective date of the decrease in the payment standard amount, until the approval of HUD's latest FMR.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to the following individuals:

1. **Saipan Office – Telephone Numbers: 234-6866 or 234-9447**
   - David Chargualaf, PHD Manager – email: phdmanager@nmhcgov.net
2. **Tinian Field Office – Telephone Number: 433-9213**
   - Frances Diaz, Tinian Field Office Representative – email: tiq@nmhc.gov.mp
3. **Rota Field Office – Telephone Number: 532-9410**
   - Arvin Ogo, Rota Field Office Representative – email: rop@nmhc.gov.mp

Marriage Encounter Weekend on Sept. 9-11

For over two decades, families in the CNMI have undergone positive, life-changing transformations through Marriage Encounter. How? It's simple. Marriage Encounter is based on offering married couples the gifts of enhanced communication, renewed commitment and rekindled romance.

Marriage Encounter starts with a weekend at a hotel, away from everyday distractions, tensions and commitments including work, children, relatives, sports, and TV/multi-media. In our daily lives, we rarely spend enough quality time with our spouses as our responsibilities to provide ends' meet, care for our children and elderly parents, often overwhelm our schedules. The M.E. Weekend is a constructive and personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that they can use for the rest of their lives. It's a time to share their feelings, hopes and dreams with each other. It is not about openly discussing a couple's problems with others.

The emphasis of the M.E. Weekend is on the communication between husbands and wives. The M.E. Weekend provides a conducive environment for couples to spend time together, encouraging them to focus on each other and their relationship. It's not a retreat, marriage clinic, or substitute for counseling. Couples are not required to share anything with anyone else. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing marriage so it truly is a marriage enrichment program.

The biggest reason couples shy away from joining the M.E. Weekend is because they fear change. For many couples who have been married 10+ years, routine has set in, and life may seem dull and busy, yet comfortable. Comfort is substituted for passion and date nights are relegated to a special occasion, occurring once in blue moon. Marriage is something that's easy to join but often times challenging to maintain. Many couples don't hesitate to put in an extra few hours at work for a big deadline or project, or wake up early to watch that game on ESPN or practice a favorite sport like golf, biking or baseball, but how much extra effort do they contribute to the health of their marriages? It's common sense that professional athletes need to dedicate arduous training time to their sport in order to improve and enhance their performance. If marriage is like a sport, how much time do husbands and wives devote to the most important person in their lives to ensure that their marriage relationships are in tip-top shape? Strangely, most people don't think that they need to work on their marriages. The reality is that all marriages deserve the best.

The next CNMI M.E. Weekend is on Sept. 9-11 2016 at the Kanoa Resort Saipan in Susupe. The cost is $100 per couple.

Why do M.E.? Many couples are naturally hesitant to join the M.E. Weekend because they are unfamiliar with the program. Following are some answers to the most asked questions.

Q: Why should my spouse and I do M.E. if we have a good marriage and have no problems?

A: M.E. is suited for all couples, even for those who have good marriages because there are natural peaks and valleys in the cycle of marriage. There will come a time when something happens and you'll both need to face that disillusionment together. With M.E.'s communication techniques, you'll be able to resolve those issues and get through the hurdles, rather than sweep them under the carpet.

Q. Will we need to air our "dirty laundry" in front of others?

A. No, not at all! Of course, couples may share if they're so inclined, but it's not expected. In fact, M.E wouldn't exist if couples had to disclose intimate matters publicly.

Q. I want to do M.E. but my spouse doesn't. What can I do?

A. This is often the case where one spouse is interested and the other is not. Explain that M.E. is just one weekend away from home that you need to rejuvenate yourself and that you want to do it for the health of your relationship. Ask for it as a birthday/anniversary/early Christmas gift!

Q. How much religion is involved?

A. In Saipan, the CNMI Marriage Encounter organization falls under the Catholic Church so there is a presenting priest and the topic of God's role in marriage is mentioned. The topic of religion does not overwhelm the presentation and M.E. is open to couples of ALL faiths!

Q. Do I have to be Catholic to attend?

A. No, the Worldwide Marriage Encounter requires that each Weekend be divided among Catholics and other religions. Anyone is welcome, regardless of any church affiliation.

Q. Do I have to be married in a church to qualify?

A. No, you do not need to be married in a church. You just need to be legally married.

Q. Do I have to be married a minimum amount of years?

A. No, not anymore! As long as you're legally married, you qualify.

Q. What is involved in an M.E. Weekend?

A. Weekends begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday evening. Two nights' accommodation, five meals starting Saturday morning plus all the materials are included.

Q. How much is it to join the M.E. Weekend?

A. $100 per couple for two nights' accommodation and five meals to help defray the costs of the Weekend.

Q. Will I have to change after I do M.E.?

A. No, no one can make you change unless you yourself want to. Typically, you will want to make some changes in your marriage because of your deep love for your spouse.

Q. How can I join the next M.E. Weekend?

A. Space is limited to 15 couples. Submit an application form and payment to Kanae Quinn at kanaequinn@gmail.com or call 285-1168. ***(PR)***

FOR FIRST-TIME HOMEOWNERS

$282K released to Guam Housing Corp. Trust Fund

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Bill No. 293-33 (COR), now Public Law 33-168, replenishes the Guam Housing Corp.'s Housing Trust Fund by $760,000.

As of last week, $282,000 of the $760,000 has been released to the Guam Housing Corp. This will help approximately 30 families fulfill their dreams in owning their first homes. It is expected that these funds will stimulate the economy by about $17,500,000.

For the second time, Speaker Judith Won Pat authored public laws that transferred escheated funds to the Guam Housing Corporation's Housing Trust Fund. The Guam Housing Corp.'s Housing Trust Fund was established in 2012, as part of P.L. 31-166, to support the affordability and accessibility of housing for residents of Guam, and to finance support services that assist low-income households in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing.

In the 32nd Guam Legislature, Speaker Won Pat authored P.L. 32-36 which transferred $2.1 million to fund the first-time home ownership program. These grants yielded over $53 million in Real Estate, Banking, Escrow, Appraisers, and Title Insurance activity. It provided 289 families homes.

Speaker Won Pat will continue to fight for the remaining balance that was appropriated to the fund which will help additional families fund their homes. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 I Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
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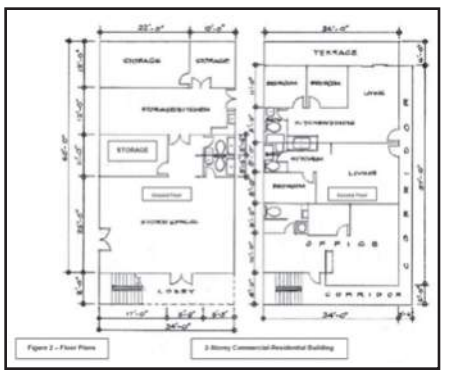
COMMERCIAL BUILDING
Lot No. 444-1
SUSUPE, SAIPAN



The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is seeking proposals from individuals or companies to lease Lot 444-1 and its improvements located in Texas Road, Susupe, Saipan. The total land area is 1,856 square meters. The two-storey, semi-concrete framed building situated on the property has a building area of 3,928.50 square feet.

Terms and Condition of Lease
Property is being leased "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS". All Prospective Lessees are encouraged to visit the property prior to submitting a proposal and are asked to contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager at ext. 306 to schedule an appointment. Prospective Lessee must rely on its own investigation and review of the physical, environmental, economic use, compliance, and legal conditions of the Property.

Proposal should include the following information:
- Proposed lease amount and term not to exceed fifteen (15) years
- Name, address and telephone number of contact person.

Proposals entitled "PROPOSAL – SUSUPE COMMERCIAL BUILDING" must be received by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 31, 2016 and should be addressed to:

Mr. Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director
Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149
Saipan, MP 96950

Lease will be awarded to the individual or company with the offer most beneficial to CDA.

The CDA reserves the right: (1) to cancel this Notice at any time for any reason (2) to accept or reject any and all proposals and (3) to request additional information prior to or upon the final selection of a Lessee.

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 I Fax: (670) 235-7147
www.developcnmi.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
FOR LEASE

COMMERCIAL BUILDING
CHALAN KANOA, SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is seeking proposals from individuals or companies to lease Lot 014 H 08 and its improvements located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan near the U.S. Post Office. The total land area is 1,638 square meters and has a building area of 5,858 square feet.

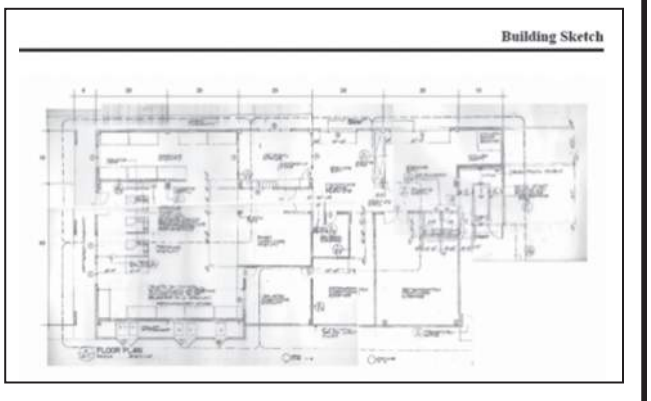
Terms and Condition of Lease
Property is being leased "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS". All Prospective Lessees are encouraged to visit the property prior to submitting a proposal and are asked to contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Loan Manager at 234-6245 ext. 306 to schedule an appointment. Prospective Lessee must rely on its own investigation and review of the physical, environmental, economic use, compliance, and legal conditions of the Property.

Proposal should include the following information:
- Proposed lease price and term
- Name, address and telephone number of contact person.

Proposals entitled "PROPOSAL– CHALAN KANOA COMMERCIAL BUILDING" must be received by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 31, 2016 and should be addressed to:

Mr. Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director
Commonwealth
Development Authority
P.O. Box 502149
Saipan, MP 96950

Lease will be awarded to the individual or company with the offer most beneficial to CDA.



The CDA reserves the right: (1) to cancel this Notice at any time for any reason (2) to accept or reject any and all proposals and (3) to request additional information prior to or upon the final selection of a Lessee.

APASEEM announces Call for Presentations for annual meeting

The Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management is presently putting forth this Call for Presentations for its upcoming annual meeting. APASEEM is also pleased to encourage regional scientists, science teachers, and resource managers to contribute announcements via our website, at www.apaseem.org. Please help us distribute this announcement widely to all on your professional contacts list.

In keeping with tradition, APASEEM will be using the week before Thanksgiving for the presentation's conference. The date(s) scheduled are Tuesday, Nov. 15, and Wednesday Nov. 16, and if needed, Thursday, Nov. 17. As in the past, we are reserved to hold the event at the American Memorial Park Auditorium, which seats up to 112 people.

All interested science and environmental professionals—and teachers and students of these disciplines are encouraged to develop a 15-to 20-minute presentation on an aspect of their recent work which may be of interest to the CNMI's science, science education, and environmental management community. To get scheduled on the meetings' agenda, just contact any officer (see email addresses below). A topical title and a brief abstract (one paragraph) of your talk will help us to better advertise our conference, so please send us these when able to. For examples please see past years' talks via our website.

APASEEM is also using this opportunity to continue our ongoing membership drive. Spread the word as APASEEM mostly operates on annually due membership fees and contributions. If you've been thinking about becoming a dues-paying active member, or if your affiliation or agency is able to do so, please encourage this and please join. A reminder—most of APASEEM's members remember to pay at or around the date of their annual conference and that fees for professional organizations are tax deductible. Remember speakers get half off on annual fees if they've presented sometime during the previous year. Group rates available for any organization, public or private—see website for fees and mailing address. Potential new members and/or potential group officers are highly encouraged to make contact with us.

As background, APASEEM's updated academy's synopsis document is included in its website.

Please contact Michael Trianni (president) via mtrianni@ymail.com; or John Furey (vice president) via jfurey.saipan.com@gmail.com; or Andre Kozij (treasurer) via akaspn@hotmail.com; or Julie Mushynsky (secretary) via julie.mushynsky@flinders.edu.au to get on this year's conference schedule. The organization also has a Gmail account for general correspondence but can also be used for getting scheduled to speak at this year's conference, apaseem@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

8 attend Motheread/Fatheread meeting on Tinian

On Aug. 13, 2016, the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program conducted a Parents Trainers and Story Exploring Instructors Meeting on the beautiful island of Tinian.

Congratulations trainers Evelyn Evangelista, Lou Connie Mangloña, Mariana Omengkar, Lorna Lynn Hofschneider, Mary Santos, Celina Farrell, Rose Lazaro, and Marvieluz Syed. We thank you, and we appreciate you for all that you do for the CNMI volunteering for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's CNMI Motheread/ Fatheread Program. God bless you all! Biba, Team CNMI Motheread Fatheread!

Motheread Inc. is a nationally acclaimed private, non-profit organization that combines the teaching of literacy skills with child development and family empowerment issues. Parents and children learn to use the power of language to discover more about themselves their families, and their communities.

Motheread offers classes for both the adults and children. In adult classes, participants learn to be story readers, writers, and tellers in a group structure that supports their own sense of worth and ability. These classes are appropriate for all adults, regardless of reading ability or prior educational experience. By teaching the "why" of reading rather than just emphasizing the "how," classes encourage parents to be reading role models for their children. For children, Story Exploring provides a structured environment for learning reading, critical-thinking, and problem solving skills. CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program is administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and is conveniently located in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Schedules for interested Private Schools and Organizations/Agencies could be arranged by contacting Viola Deleon Guerrero, Beth Demapan, or Bryan Manabat at Tel:235-7319/989-8542/783-7678/285-9666 or E-mail: cnmimotheread@gmail.com or instagram @cnmimothereread or visit our website at https://sites.google.com/site/cnmimothereread/. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program conducted a Parents Trainers and Story Exploring Instructors Meeting on Tinian last Aug. 13.

LAND FOR ASSIGNMENT

1. SAN ROQUE
   LAND AREA: 1124 SQ.M. WITH 3 RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL UNITS
2. SAN ROQUE - FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY & NIKO MARKET
   LAND AREA: 1111 SQ. M. WITH 3 COMMERCIAL UNITS
3. SAN ANTONIO - ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH
   LAND AREA: 757 SQ.M. WITH 2 RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL UNITS
4. DANDAN – NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE
   LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ.M. WITH 3 BEDROOMS RESIDENTIAL UNITS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL EMER AT 287-0693 OR 234-1818

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ITB16-CHCC/CGC-002

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 09, 2016 TIME: 11:00AM (NO LATER THAN)
OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 TIME: 11:00AM

"FOR OFFICE SPACE LEASE IN ROTA COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER – SYSTEMS OF CARE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION – MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
ITB16-CHCC/CGC-003

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 09, 2016 TIME: 11:00AM (NO LATER THAN)
OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 TIME: 11:00AM

"FOR OFFICE SPACE LEASE IN TINIAN COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER – SYSTEMS OF CARE PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION – MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS D. BABAUTA
ACTING CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/P&R-156

SUBMISSION: SEPT. 12, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE RIDING MOWER FOR DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION"

THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BID

MVA-IFB-16-2344: ACQUISITION OF TWO PICK-UP TRUCKS
MVA-IFB-16-2345: ACQUISITION OF PASSENGER VAN
MVA-IFB-16-2346: ACQUISITION OF SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE

Closing Date: **September 29, 2016** Time: **11:00 a.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
MVA Acting Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher Concepcion
Managing Director

Business

Zika screening expanded to all US blood centers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government told all U.S. blood banks Friday to start screening for Zika, a major expansion intended to protect the nation's blood supply from the mosquito-borne virus.

Previously, blood testing was mostly limited to parts of Florida and Puerto Rico, where Zika is spreading. Screening will initially extend to states along the Gulf Coast and a few others.

"There is still much uncertainty regarding the nature and extent of Zika virus transmission," Dr. Peter Marks said in a Food and Drug Administration release. "At this time, the recommendation for testing the entire blood supply will help ensure that safe blood is available for all individuals who might need transfusion."

Blood banks already test donations for HIV, hepatitis, West Nile and other blood-borne viruses. The Zika virus stays in the blood for about one week, but is thought to remain in other bodily fluids longer.

While Zika is primarily spread through mosquito bites, there have been reports in Brazil of Zika transmission through transfusion. No such cases have been reported in the United States. One Zika-positive blood donation, though, was recently intercepted in Florida, Marks said Friday.

"The donation was identified while the blood bag was still in quarantine, before it was released," Marks told reporters on a media call. "The system worked correctly."

Zika can also be spread through sex, and Marks said that played into the decision to expand testing. Current evidence suggests that infected men can spread the virus for several months through sex, and women can transmit it for several weeks.

Adding to the challenge is that 4 out of 5 people infected never develop symptoms, such as fever, joint pain and rash.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday reported the first U.S. case of a man spreading Zika through sex even though he never had any symptoms. The Maryland man had traveled to the Dominican Republic, one of the many countries in the Caribbean and Latin America hit with a Zika outbreak.

There have been nearly 2,500 cases of Zika in the U.S. linked to travel to outbreak areas. Since February, blood banks have turned away people who had recently visited those regions, under a previous FDA directive.

US wants to force lower speeds on truck and bus drivers

DETROIT (AP)—The U.S. is seeking to forcibly limit how fast trucks, buses and other large vehicles can travel on the nation's highways.

A new proposal Friday would impose a nationwide limit by electronically capping speeds with a device on newly made U.S. vehicles that weigh more than 26,000 pounds. Regulators are considering a cap of 60, 65 or 68 mph, though that could change. Whatever the speed limit, drivers would be physically prevented from exceeding it. The proposal, which comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, does not force older heavy vehicles to add the speed-limiting technology, but the regulators are still considering it.

The government said capping speeds for new large vehicles will reduce the 1,115 fatal crashes involving heavy trucks that occur each year and save $1 billion in fuel costs.

While the news is being welcomed by some safety advocates and non-professional drivers, many truckers said that such changes could lead to dangerous scenarios where they are traveling at much lower speeds than everyone else.

The rule has been ensnared in a regulatory maze in the decade since the nonprofit group Roadsafe America issued its first petition in 2006. The group was founded by Atlanta financial adviser Steve Owings and his wife Susan, whose son Cullum was killed by a speeding tractor-trailer during a trip back to school in Virginia after Thanksgiving in 2002. The nonprofit was later joined by the American Trucking Associations, the nation's largest trucking industry group.

Owings said he will continue to push NHTSA to force older heavy vehicles to limit their speeds.

"We are dismayed and outraged to learn the proposed rule will be for newly manufactured trucks and will not apply to the millions of trucks with which we continue to share the roads today," he said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM recalling about 368,000 vehicles to fix windshield wipers

General Motors is recalling nearly 368,000 vehicles to fix a defective part that could prevent the windshield wipers from working. The problem affects the 2013 models of the Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain. GM says those vehicles were built with ball joints that could corrode and wear out to render the windshield wipers inoperable. A report filed with government regulators says a GM manager in Canada spotted the potential safety hazard last December. The auto manufacturer opened an investigation in March and decided to issue a recall earlier this month. GM says it will cover the repair costs once it determines when it will be able to fix the problem. Chevrolet Equinox owners can call 1-800-222-1020 and GMC Terrain can call 1-800-462-8782 for further information. ***(AP)***

Court sides with Trader Joe's in suit over alleged knockoff

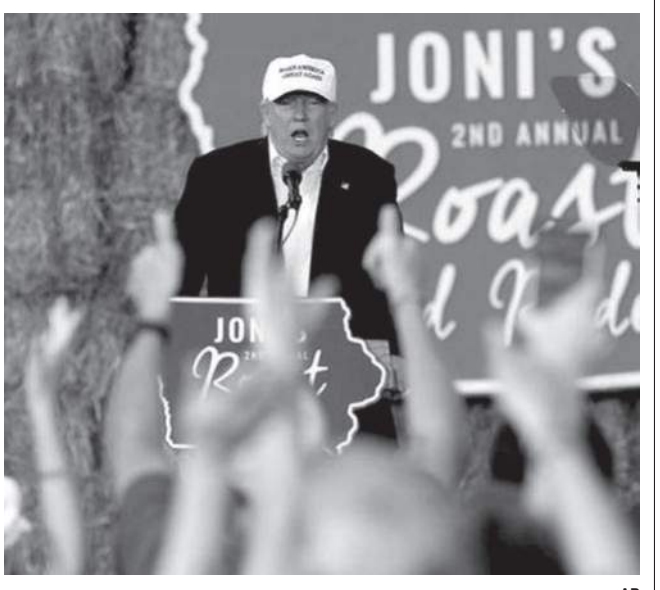
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A U.S. court has the authority to hear a trademark lawsuit by grocery chain Trader Joe's against a man who purchased the company's products and resold them in Canada at "Pirate Joe's," a store designed to mimic a real Trader Joe's, a federal appeals court said Friday. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a district court's decision to dismiss California-based Trader Joe's federal trademark claims.

The district court in Washington state said it lacked authority to hear those claims because the defendant's alleged trademark violations occurred in Canada and Trader Joe's had failed to clearly explain how they affected U.S. commerce. The 9th Circuit said defendant Michael Hallatt's conduct could harm Trader Joe's reputation, decreasing the value of its American-held trademarks.

Nation

Trump warns of regulations, taxes harming family farmers

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Donald Trump said rival Hillary Clinton will push regulations and high taxes that will hurt family farmers as he campaigned in Iowa, an agricultural state that remains a presidential election battleground.



AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at Joni's Roast and Ride during a fundraiser at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, in Des Moines, Iowa, Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016.

Trump warned a crowd in Iowa on Saturday that Clinton "wants to shut down family farms" and implement anti-agriculture policies. His comments came in a speech to the annual "Roast and Ride" fundraiser for Republican Sen. Joni Ernst. Trump skipped the 42-mile motorcycle ride that preceded the event.

Joining the presidential nominee on stage were top Iowa Republicans—among them Ernst, Gov. Terry Branstad, Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Steve King—in a rare show of establishment support for a candidate who has struggled to unite his party.

In a gesture to Iowa's agriculture industry, Trump renewed his commitment to continuing a requirement that all gasoline sold contain an ethanol-based additive, an issue important to corn growers. He also promised to cut taxes on family farms, which he called the "backbone" of the country.

"Hillary Clinton wants to shut down family farms just like she wants to shut down the mines and the steelworkers," he said at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. "She will do this not only through radical regulation, but also by raising taxes on family farms—and all businesses—to rates as high as nearly 50 percent."

Clinton's campaign website touts a plan to increase funding to support farmers and ranchers in local food markets and regional food systems, saying she'll create a "focused safety net to help family farms get through challenging times."

Friends, colleagues to remember slain Mississippi nuns

DURANT, Miss. (AP)—Friends and colleagues who knew two nuns killed in their Mississippi home are gathering Sunday to remember them, as authorities continue to investigate the harrowing crime that shocked people in the small communities where the women committed their lives to helping the poor.

Rodney Earl Sanders, 46, of Kosciusko, Mississippi, has been arrested and charged in the deaths of Sister Margaret Held and Sister Paula Merrill. The county sheriff said Sanders confessed to the killings although many people are struggling to comprehend why anyone would want to take the two women's lives.

A wake is scheduled to be held Sunday at the St. Thomas Church in Lexington where the women led Bible study. That will be followed by a mass Monday in Jackson.

The women's bodies were found in their Durant, Mississippi, home after they failed to show up for work Thursday at a health clinic in Lexington, about 10 miles away.

Willie March, the sheriff of Holmes County where the killings occurred, said Saturday that police work and tips from the community led police to Sanders. Authorities have said Sanders was developed as a person of interest early in the investigation.

He said he had been briefed by Durant police and Mississippi Bureau of Investigation officials who took part in Sanders' interrogation and was told that Sanders confessed to the killings and gave no reason for the crimes. The sheriff said the investigation is ongoing.

Transgender North Carolinians get restroom-access win

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A federal judge ruled Friday that two students and an employee must be allowed to use restrooms matching their gender identity at University of North Carolina campuses, and he said they have a strong chance of proving the state's bathroom-access measure violates federal law, a judicial rebuke that transgender rights advocates hailed as a victory.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder temporarily blocked the University of North Carolina from making the three plaintiffs follow the restroom provision of the so-called HB2 law as the larger case makes its way to trial in November. His final decision on the law won't come until after trial.

Passed in March, HB2 requires transgender people to use restrooms in schools and many public buildings that correspond to the sex on their birth certificates, rather than their gender identity. It also excludes gender identity and sexual orientation from statewide antidiscrimination protections.

The state's Republican leaders argue the law is needed to protect privacy and safety by keeping men out of women's restrooms. Transgender residents challenging the law say that restroom safety is protected by existing laws, while the North Carolina measure is harmful and discriminatory.

In Friday's ruling, Schroeder wrote that the challengers "are likely to succeed" in their arguments that HB2 violates Title IX, a federal law prohibiting gender discrimination in educational institutions.

Asia

Filipinos seen backing Duterte despite rising drug killings

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—On the day he was sworn into office, President Rodrigo Duterte went to a Manila slum and exhorted residents who knew any drug addicts to "go ahead and kill them yourself as getting their parents to do it would be too painful."

In this Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016, file photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures with a fist bump during his visit to the Philippine Army's Camp Mateo Capinpin at Tanay township, Rizal province east of Manila, Philippines. AP

Two months later, nearly 2,000 suspected drug pushers and users lay dead as morgues continue to fill up. Faced with criticism of his actions by rights activists, international bodies and outspoken Filipinos, including the top judge, Duterte has stuck to his guns and threatened to declare martial law if the Supreme Court meddles in his work.

According to a survey early last month, he has the support of nearly 91 percent of Filipinos. The independent poll was done during his first week in office, and no new surveys have come out since then.

National police chief Ronald dela Rosa told a Senate hearing this week that police have recorded more than 1,900 dead, including 756 suspected drug dealers and users who were gunned down after they resisted arrest. More than 1,000 other deaths are under investigation, and some of them may not be drug-related, he said.

Jayeel Cornelio, a doctor of sociology and director of Ateneo de Manila University's Development Studies Program, said he suspects only a few of Duterte's supporters are disillusioned by the killings and his rhetoric because voters trust his campaign promise to crush drug criminals. They also find resonance in his cursing and no-holds-barred comments.

N. Korea threatens to fire at US, S. Korea troops' lights

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Saturday threatened to aim fire at the lighting equipment used by "provocative" American and South Korean troops at a truce village inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas.

The North's Korean People's Army accused U.S. and South Korean soldiers of "deliberate provocations" by aiming their lights at North Korean guard posts at Panmunjom since Friday evening.

The KPA said in a statement that the soldiers' actions have seriously threatened the safety of North Korean troops and disrupted their normal monitoring activities. It said the activities have further raised the anger of North Korean soldiers at a time when the Korean Peninsula has reached the "brink of war" due to last Monday's start of annual joint military drills between the U.S. and South Korea that Pyongyang says are an invasion rehearsal.

"Floodlight directed at the KPA side at random is taken as an intolerable means of provocation and it will be the target of merciless pinpoint shots," the KPA's chief security officers at Panmunjom said in the statement, carried by the North's state media.

"The true aim sought by the provocateurs through their recent act is to seriously get on the nerves of the KPA soldiers, lead them to take due countermeasures and label them as provocation," it said.

South Korea's Defense Ministry didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The statement by North Korea's military came hours after the United Nations Security Council issued a statement strongly condemning four North Korean ballistic missile launches in July and August.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Would-be bomber fails to detonate in Indonesian church

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Police in western Indonesia say a would-be suicide bomber failed to detonate explosives in a packed church during Sunday Mass. National police spokesman Maj. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar says the assailant left a bench and ran toward a priest at the altar but a bomb in his backpack apparently did not detonate and left the attacker injured. Amar says the man kept running toward the priest with a burning backpack as the congregation chased and captured him. The motive of the attack is not clear. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, has suffered a spate of deadly attacks by Muslim militants since the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people.

Bangladesh police kill 3, including suspect in Dhaka attack

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in Bangladesh killed three suspected militants Saturday, including an alleged mastermind of a major attack on a cafe last month that left 20 people dead. Police sharpshooters raided a two-story house in Narayanganj district near the capital, Dhaka, after receiving a tip that Tamim Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi-born Canadian, and others were hiding there, top counterterrorism official Monirul Islam said. Police say Chowdhury is one of two masterminds of the attack on a popular restaurant in Dhaka on July 1 that that killed 20 people, including 17 foreigners. The militants belonged to the banned group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, or JMB, Bangladesh's police chief A.K.M. Shahidul Hoque told reporters.

World

Grief erupts in Italy as nation honors, buries quake dead

ASCOLI PICENO, Italy (AP)—Mourners in Italy prayed, hugged, wept and even applauded as coffins carrying victims of the country's devastating earthquake passed by at a state funeral Saturday, grieving as one nation after three desperate days of trying to save as many people as possible.

In the central town of Ascoli Piceno, they gathered to bid farewell to 35 of the 291 people confirmed dead so far after the quake that struck a swath of countryside early Wednesday at the foothills of the central Apennine mountains.

The caskets of 35 people had been brought to a community gym—one of the few structures in the area still intact and large enough to hold hundreds of mourners. The local bishop, Giovanni D'Ercole, celebrated Mass beneath a crucifix he had retrieved from one of the damaged churches in the picturesque area of medieval stone towns and hamlets.

Emotions that had been dammed up for days broke in a crescendo of grief. One young man wept over a little girl's white coffin. Another woman gently stroked another small casket. Many mourners were recovering from injuries themselves, some wrapped in bandages. Everywhere people knelt at coffins, tears running down their cheeks, their arms around loved ones.

"It is a great tragedy. There are no words to describe it," said Gina Razzetti, a resident at the funeral. "Each one of us has our pain inside. We are thinking about the families who lost relatives, who lost their homes, who lost everything."

As all of Italy observed a day of national mourning, with flags at half-staff, Bishop D'Ercole urged residents to rebuild their communities.

"Don't be afraid to cry out your suffering—I have seen a lot of this—but please do not lose courage," D'Ercole said in his homily. "Only together can we rebuild our houses and our churches. Together, above all, we will be able to restore life to our communities."

President Sergio Mattarella and Premier Matteo Renzi joined grieving family members, stopping to speak to some of them.

When the caskets were brought out of the gym, the mourners applauded, a traditional Italian way of honoring people who die in tragedy.

The bishop recalled the heartbreaking story of 9-year-old Giulia Rinaldo, whose embrace apparently allowed her younger sister Giorgia to survive.

He said 15 hours after the quake struck Wednesday, he returned to the church in Pescara Del Tronto to recover its crucifix. Close by, firefighters were using their hands to dig out the two sisters.

"The older one, Giulia, was sprawled over the smaller one, Giorgia. Giulia, dead, Giorgia, alive. They were in an embrace," D'Ercole said.

Mosul fight is already redrawing the map of northern Iraq

QARQASHAH, Iraq (AP)—In the buildup to a long-awaited offensive on the city of Mosul, Kurdish forces are seizing new territory in northern Iraq that they say will become part of their autonomous region. The moves are further straining relations between the Kurds and the Baghdad government and Shiite militias, all ostensibly allies in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Just east of Mosul, Kurdish engineering teams on a recent day were laying down a 3-meter wide, 20-kilometer long trench and 2-meter high berms, marking the new front line after recapturing the village of Qarqashah and neighboring hamlets from IS earlier this month.

The new de facto borders established by the Kurdish fighters, known as peshmerga, raise the potential for conflict between Iraq's Kurds and Arabs after any eventual defeat of IS—just as in neighboring Syria, where Kurds have also dramatically expanded their zone of control.

"All the areas that have been liberated by the peshmerga forces, our (Kurdish) forces will stay there," said Falah Mustafa, the head of the Iraqi Kurdish region's foreign relations department, echoing statements by numerous officials.

Largely with the help of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, Kurdish forces have taken territory equivalent to around 50 percent of the size of their recognized autonomous zone.

Mining leader, 2 others, accused in Bolivia official's death

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Bolivian authorities accused the president of a mining federation and two of his top officials of the killing of deputy interior minister Rodolfo Illanes amid a bitter strike, officials said Saturday. Forty miners have been detained in the case.

Illanes was kidnapped and beaten to death by striking mine workers on Thursday after to going to the town of Panduro, 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of La Paz, to mediate in the dispute over mining laws and dwindling paychecks.

Three protesters have been killed in clashes with riot police, stoking tensions.

The striking miners had armed themselves with dynamite and seized several highways, stranding thousands of vehicles and passengers.

Bolivia's Attorney General's Office has detained 40 miners, among them protest leader Carlos Mamani, president of the National Federation of Mining Cooperatives of Bolivia. On Saturday afternoon, Mamani and two other federation officials were accused by the Public Ministry in Illanes' death.

An autopsy found that Illanes died from trauma to the brain and thorax.

The blockaded highway in Panduro was clear on Friday as the miners returned to their camps. A funeral Mass was held for Illanes in La Paz.

Illanes' murder underscored how President Evo Morales, a former coca growers' union leader, has increasingly found himself at odds with the same kind of popular social movements that fueled his rise to power and have made up his political base.

The leftist president called the beating death of the deputy minister "a conspiracy" to overthrow him.

Bolivia's informal miners number about 100,000 and work in self-managed cooperatives producing primarily zinc, tin, silver and gold.

Health & Fitness

Pros to joes: Elite athlete training for regular folks

By DAVE CAMPBELL
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Tight end Kyle Rudolph's two most productive seasons for the Minnesota Vikings were those in which he played every game.

After all the surgeries, crutches and rehab, Rudolph has found a training program to supplement team-supervised workouts and improve his durability. The sturdiness of his body at 26 has become as important as the agility and strength needed to thrive in the NFL.

"It's all about playing 16 games," said Rudolph, who has overcome operations on his hamstring and both hips, plus a broken foot and a sprained knee.

He enjoyed an injury-free season in 2015, his first since 2012. Rudolph found his happy place in downtown Minneapolis at the Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine Center through a joint venture with the specialized performance training firm EXOS.

Jennifer Krogman's goal was just to do some pushups again after a wrist injury.

"It was a thrill," she said. "This was the first progress I'd ever made."

After eight surgeries in nine years on her broken left wrist, Krogman has finally discovered a way to work out at an intense level without neglecting or damaging the joint that has troubled her.

The activities this former high school basketball player and track sprinter has been engaging in at Mayo's EXOS site in Rochester, Minnesota, actually aren't that all dissimilar from what Rudolph has done to prepare for the football season.

"The elite athlete is the beacon that gets all the attention, but those same principles trickle down to how we treat every athlete," said Dr. Ed Laskowski, the co-director of Mayo's sports medicine

AP
In this July 6, 2016 photo, from left, Mickey Leius, Stephen Kalia, Jaden Huff and Haley Nielsen work out at the Mayo Clinic in Minneapolis.

operation.

Founded in 1999 in the Phoenix area as Athletes' Performance, Inc., EXOS has used its experience training first-round draft picks and Olympians as a springboard into the corporate world. EXOS has more than 100 business clients, strengthening employee wellness programs or helping business travelers seeking healthier lifestyles.

Call this the combine for the common folks.

"Obviously, the stakes are a little bit different. There may not be an audience. It may not be televised, but it still has a great internal impact on you," said Alex Lincoln, an EXOS vice president and a former linebacker at Auburn and with the San Francisco 49ers.

EXOS is far from alone in the fitness marketplace. But the program is based on four pillars: mindset, movement, nutrition and recovery. Personalized, sustainable and measurable are parameters for implementation, blending high technology with sports science.

Trainers can pull out an iPad to evaluate an athlete's stride in attempt to correct a mechanical flaw or prevent further injury.

"A lot of exercise is based on tradition. We're going to do something because that's what Arnold did to get stronger or a coach has told us stuff. Very well-meaning coaches, but a lot of stuff they told us was based on tradition and not based on the rules of the body," Laskowski said. "So as we've developed those areas, we've found that there are biomechanical patterns that need to be optimal. Perfect practice makes perfect. We want you to be doing it right from the first time."

Even with a wide range of costs, the individualized workout isn't cheap. Krogman's five-times-per-week sessions break down to about $20 apiece, though, a fee she's says is as worthy as the 5:45 a.m. starts.

Now that she's mastered techniques for the deadlifts and other weight-bearing exercises without compromising her wrist, Krogman has set her sight on a more ambitious cardiovascular goal: the 7-minute mile she once could run.

"Everyone else has always told me, 'No, you can't do this. You just have to get used to walking, running, riding a bike. Lifting weights, you can't do," Krogman said. "I was like, 'No, I'm pretty sure I can still do that.'"

College athletes have signed up for the program. Haley Nielsen and Stephen Kalina have taken part in small-group sessions at the Mayo-EXOS site in Minneapolis this summer, pushing sleds on the artificial turf and sweating through plyometric box jumps.

Nielsen, a hockey player for Wisconsin-River Falls, came in search of more explosiveness on the ice. Kalina, a middle infielder at Purdue, wanted to stay in shape and add strength and weight while many of his teammates were playing in summer leagues.

"I'm hoping to come back and show how beneficial it is," Nielsen said.

Another key to the program is sports-specific movements that work the muscle groups needed to perform in game time. Kalina envisions stealing a base during crossover drills as he tries to explode out of his first three or four steps. Then there are the core muscles and leg muscles that generate the power in a swing.

"It's great to have the big biceps and all that," Kalina said, "but you need a stronger base, so we really focus on that."

Rudolph finished his second summer at EXOS before the Vikings reported to training camp. These days, his focus is efficiency and agility drills to mimic route-running down the field.

"A lot of times the guys who are covering me are much faster than I am," Rudolph said, "but if I'm moving efficiently, not wasting any motion, it gives me an advantage to get open."

Obesity linked to eight more types of cancer, studies show

By BLYTHE BERNHARD
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

ST. LOUIS—Carrying extra weight is a risk factor for eight more types of cancer, according to a review of more than 1,000 medical studies.

Obesity is now linked to an increased risk of developing cancer of the thyroid, liver, stomach, gall bladder, pancreas and ovaries, plus meningioma, a type of brain tumor, and multiple myeloma, a blood cancer. Earlier research has shown links between obesity and cancer of the breasts, colon, esophagus, kidneys and uterus.

The researchers did not pinpoint a percentage of increased risk caused by obesity, but were able to rule out other risk factors like smoking to make the connections.

"We know for pancreas cancer that smoking is a cause, we know that for liver cancer smoking and alcohol are causes, and now we have this evidence that obesity is clearly a contributing cause as well," said Dr. Graham Colditz of Washington University, who led the research group under the World Health Organization.

More than 40 percent of U.S. women and 35 percent of men are obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Meanwhile, cancer has surpassed heart disease as the No. 1 cause of death in 22 states, not including Missouri or Illinois.

Colditz said the concern is that cancer deaths will continue to increase because of a lack of successful treatments available for many types of the disease, whereas other killers like heart disease and diabetes are more easily managed.

But the research also points to possible cancer prevention effects from healthy diets and maintaining normal weight. The researchers tried to figure out if losing weight reduces the risk of cancer. They looked at women who had lost weight through surgery and found there were significant reductions in breast and endometrial cancers compared to obese women.

"A lot more work is needed in that area but there is promising evidence that weight loss can reverse some of that adverse effect of weight gain and obesity," Colditz said.

The report was published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Cancer now kills more people than heart disease in 22 states

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cancer has surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death in California and 21 other states, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

That total is in stark contrast to the situation at the start of this century, when only two states—Alaska and Minnesota—lost more people to cancer than heart disease.

And it's a huge departure from the situation in the 1950s, when the number of heart disease deaths was 21/2 times bigger than the number of cancer fatalities.

Nationwide, heart disease still edges out cancer as the top killer of Americans. In 2014, 614,348 U.S. residents died of heart disease, compared with 591,699 who succumbed to cancer, according to the CDC tally of death certificates from the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

That gap is small, but it was even smaller in 2012. Demographers predicted that cancer would overtake heart disease within a few years.

Then heart disease, which had been on the decline since the early 1990s, began to tick up. Between 2011 and 2014, the number of deaths attributable to heart disease rose 3 percent, compared with a 2.6 percent increase for cancer.

Among some groups of Americans, cancer now claims more lives than any other cause of death.

Asian Americans were the first to cross that threshold, in 2000. That year, the National Vital Statistics System recorded 9,069 cancer deaths, compared with 8,949 for heart disease.

Since then, the number of annual cancer fatalities among Asian Americans has grown by 79.6 percent (to 16,292), while annual heart disease fatalities rose a more modest 45.5 percent (to 13,021).

Latinos followed in 2009, with 29,935 cancer deaths and 29,611 heart disease deaths that year. By 2014, that margin had widened to 36,447 cancer deaths and 34,021 heart disease fatalities.

Alaska became the first state to see cancer edge out heart disease as the leading cause of death, in 1990. Minnesota joined the club about a decade later.

Since 2000, 20 more states have followed suit. They are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

The report was published Wednesday by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics.

Life & Style

In North Korea, a hardboiled (and fictional) cop keeps watch

NEW YORK (AP) — The hero, a police inspector, prowls a city known more for its political malevolence than its street crime. If you read the local newspapers, you could think it's a city with almost no crime at all. There have been no murders reported there for years, no bank robberies, no muggings, no rapes.

The city is Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, which has long hidden so many realities beneath layers of propaganda and isolation.

The hero is Inspector O, a policeman who knows those realities. And so, in many ways, does the policeman's creator, the bearded man in the crowded Manhattan restaurant who calls himself James Church.

AP

In this Oct. 13, 2015, file photo, dawn breaks over Pyongyang, North Korea, as buildings poke through the midst.

Church doesn't want you to know his real name, his nationality or the name of the organization where he worked for so many years. All he'll say is that he was raised in California, that he spent decades watching North Korea as an intelligence officer for a Western country, and that he traveled there dozens of times.

Church has also, in novels about a tormented Pyongyang police inspector who loves his country despite its many failings, found a way to write about the country he studied for so long.

Inspector O—his first name is never given; his surname is common in Korea — is a hard-boiled, old-school investigator, a Raymond Chandler character trying to do the right thing in a brutal world. But he is also quick to defend that world, especially when outsiders criticize it.

"We know how the world sees us," he tells a Swiss intelligence official in "Bamboo and Blood," the third Inspector O novel. "But we are not as weak as people think —or hope."

Inspector O is "a good, solid police detective who just wants to do his work," said Church, whose sixth book in the series, "The Gentleman from Japan," will be released late this year. "He really doesn't care about politics. He knows it gets in the way, that it's annoying. He knows that sometimes he has to bow to it."

But O still refuses to wear one of the small lapel pins, decorated with portraits of North Korea's leaders that are ubiquitous in the country.

Church's books often center around outsiders—an Israeli spy, a Scottish policeman, that Swiss intelligence guy — thrust into a North Korea they constantly misunderstand.

"I couldn't pretend that I was writing from the inside. I couldn't pretend that I was a North Korean," said Church, whose first Inspector O novel was released a decade ago, and whose work has been warmly received by critics. Now retired from government work, he was in New York recently for a visit. "What interested me was the point at which the North Korean reality and our reality meet. Because I have a lot of experience with that, and that's where it illuminates what they think."

The world has spent years misunderstanding the North Korean reality, Church says, reducing it to cliches of goose-stepping soldiers, brainwashed people, and dictators waiting for the chance to reduce the world to a smoldering, radioactive pulp.

But much of what Inspector O encounters would be familiar anywhere.

Church's North Korea is a place of squabbling relatives, office bullies, bureaucratic turf wars and bitter spouses. It's a place where most people quietly go along with the government, but a few find ways to quietly push back. It's a place where politics is a constant presence, something to be extremely wary of, but where most people are more worried about office politics or troublesome children.

"We've seen time after time, when authoritarian countries fall, that people pretty much live normal lives," he said. "Some aspects of life are exaggerated in North Korea in many ways. But I think that when the end finally comes and we understand more fully how people live their lives, we'll be surprised."

Still, North Koreans do face myriad dangers, from arrests by the country's web of security agencies to powerful bureaucrats who can upend a person's life in a moment.

"There are always storm clouds on the horizon," said Church. "There is a thunderstorm that could break at any moment."

O regularly hints at those storms.

"We all knew that we were drifting, and we knew where," the policeman reflects in "Bamboo and Blood," which takes place during North Korea's brutal mid-1990s famine. "A nation of shriveled leaves floating on a doomed river toward the falls. A winter of endless sorrow."

Church's real name and his background are widely known in the small community of North Korea watchers, where he is seen as one of the most insightful analysts of the isolated nation. Inspector O also has plenty of fans.

"If you want to understand North Korea then you need to read Inspector O," said Michael Madden, who has spent years studying the North Korean leadership. Church "is giving you the conversations that these people have, the bureaucracy there and just the North Korean mood and attitude. He gets that culture. Not many people do."

Jesse Metcalfe revels in real-life romance, music on TV

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Jesse Metcalfe is stretching himself artistically as a musician and, on the side, as a jewelry designer.

When he proposed to actress Cara Santana this month on a sailboat in New York's Hudson River, the diamond ring he slipped on her finger was one he helped create. The couple have been together for a decade.

"Don't they say it's a carat for every year you're together?" Metcalfe said. "I couldn't quite afford that, but I think I did pretty well."

Their engagement crowns a busy year for the "John Tucker Must Die" and "Dallas" actor. He plays opposite Meghan Ory in Hallmark Channel's new series "Chesapeake Shores" (airing 9 p.m. EDT Sunday through Oct. 9) and stars in an upcoming big-screen movie "The Ninth Passenger" as a thief involved in corporate espionage.

"Chesapeake Shores," based on Sherryl Woods' novels, opened with driven working woman and divorced mom Abby O'Brien (Ory) pondering a move from New York City to her Maryland hometown to improve life for her daughters. Metcalfe brings the romance as Trace, Abby's high school sweetheart. He's a country singer who's beaten his own path home to Chesapeake Shores after leaving his Nashville career under a mysterious - for now - cloud.

Metcalfe

Metcalfe talked with The Associated Press about the drama, including the chance to work his musical muscles in it, and when he and Santana will tie the knot.

Associated Press: Many actors yearn to front a band. Is playing a musician the next best thing?

Metcalfe: At the risk of sounding cliched, I have been playing and singing and writing music for a decade now. It was just something I always kept to myself. ... But this is a nice opportunity, and I wrote two original songs to the themes and the tone of the show. It's not necessarily the style in which I normally write (indie singer-songwriter). ... But I get to live out my dream a bit and be a successful country music artist in the series.

AP: How much does Trace's Nashville past figure in his story?

Metcalfe: I definitely wanted him to be layered and I wanted him to have a secret, a dark past, a reason he came back to Chesapeake Shores. In a lot of Hallmark shows and films, a major theme is coming back home, having the realization that success in the big city isn't as satisfying as the comfort you feel back home (with family). That theme rings true in this series as well, but the characters are a lot more layered, a lot more complicated. ... Hallmark said they wanted to push the envelope a little, attract a younger audience and do something different, and I think we've done that.

AP: How far can you stretch the boundaries on a family friendly channel?

Metcalfe: I think it's about keeping a little bit of edge in the show. If we're going to write and play compelling characters, sometimes they have to make mistakes. Not small mistakes, but relatively big mistakes. And you have to trust that in their pursuit of redemption, the audience will also find them redeemable as well.

AP: How did you go about designing the engagement ring?

Metcalfe: I had a close friend, (jewelry maker) Adam Campbell, walk me through the process. We knew that Cara wanted an emerald shape. ... I wanted a really feminine, delicate low-profile setting and band with diamonds all the way around the band and the basket, and really small prongs holding the diamond. I enjoyed it and Cara deserved it.

AP: Has the wedding date been set?

Metcalfe: Still to be determined. We're roughly talking about a two-year plan: a year to enjoy our engagement and a year to start planning.

The colonel's secret recipe revealed? Not so fast, says KFC

NEW YORK (AP) —Has Colonel Sanders' nephew inadvertently revealed to the world the secret blend of 11 herbs and spices behind KFC's fried chicken empire?

The company says the recipe published in the Chicago Tribune is not authentic. But that hasn't stopped rampant online speculation that one of the most legendary and closely guarded secrets in the history of fast food has been exposed.

It all started when a reporter visited with Joe Ledington, a nephew of Kentucky Fried Chicken founder Colonel Harland David Sanders.

The reporter was working on a story for the Tribune's travel section about Corbin, Kentucky, where the colonel served his first fried chicken. At one point, Ledington pulled out a family scrapbook containing the last will and testament of Sanders' second wife, Claudia Ledington.

On the back of the document is a handwritten list for a blend of 11 herbs and spices to be mixed with two cups of white flour. While Joe Ledington initially told the reporter that it was the original recipe, he later said that he didn't know for sure.

KFC—which is a subsidiary of Yum Brands Inc.—calls its recipe "one of the biggest trade secrets in the world." It says that the recipe the reporter saw is not the real thing.

"Many people have made these claims over the years and no one has been accurate —this one isn't either," KFC said in a statement.

The Louisville, Kentucky-based company says that the original recipe from 1940 handwritten by Sanders is locked up in a digital safe that's encased in two feet of concrete and monitored 24 hours a day by a video and motion detection surveillance system.

Joe Ledington could not immediately be reached for comment on Friday.

You talkin'to me? English no longer a must for NYC cabbies

NEW YORK (AP) — People who hope to drive New York City's famous yellow cabs must pass tests on such details as driving rules and where they can pick up passengers. But one test they no longer have to take? Whether they have a grasp of English.

A new law that streamlines licensing requirements for different kind of drivers has done away with the long-standing English proficiency test for taxi drivers, which supporters say will eliminate a barrier to the profession for immigrants, who make up 96 percent of the 144,000 cabbies in the city.

AP
In this Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016 photo, yellow cabs make their way east on Delancey St on the Lower East side of Manhattan.

It's also a recognition of how technology has transformed the business. Many drivers now rely on computer navigation programs, rather than verbal directions, to reach a destination. For-hire drivers for app-based services such as Uber, for example, never had to take an English test.

But critics, including some drivers, are giving a side-eye to the idea that a good command of English is no longer considered a basic requirement for a job that involves communicating with passengers and reading street signs.

"If you're going to work in this country serving the population which is majority made up of American citizens that speak English, you probably should learn how to speak English," said Tanya Crespo, who was visiting Manhattan from Newport, North Carolina.

Kathy Amato, a tourist from Baltimore, said she wouldn't ride in a taxi with a driver who couldn't speak her language.

"They should speak English because we're in New York City," she said.

New York City's taxi and for-hire drivers are already an international bunch, hailing from 167 countries, according to the Taxi and Limousine Commission, which currently offers its licensing tests in English, Spanish, Bengali and Urdu.

Hacks formerly went through one of two licensing processes, depending on what class of car they drove.

One was for the yellow cabs that passengers can hail on the street. Drivers of those vehicles, which mostly operate in Manhattan and at the airports, had to take an education course and an English proficiency test.

Bystanders hold up collapsing roller coaster, save 6 kids

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Fire officials say several bystanders held up a kiddie roller coaster that had begun to collapse in Georgia, allowing six children and one adult to escape.

Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner spokesman Glenn Allen says the group held the Oriental Express roller coaster in place Thursday evening until wood or cement blocks could be put in place to stabilize it.

A video posted on social media shows more than a dozen people holding up the coaster at the Bartow County Fair in Cartersville.

Allen says there were no injuries, and a track malfunction is likely what caused the accident. The ride's been dismantled.

Allen says Florida-based company Carol Stream operated the fair's rides. The company did not immediately respond to a phone call.

Britney Spears hitches a ride for Corden's carpool karaoke

NEW YORK (AP) -- Oops! James Corden did it again, sharing his Carpool Karaoke commute with Britney Spears on Thursday's edition of "The Late Late Show."

As they drove through LA byways with the CBS host at the wheel, they doubled up for Spears' hit songs including "Womanizer," ''Make Me," ''Toxic" and "Baby One More Time" (the latter performed in matching schoolgirl garb).

And, of course, there was one more signature Spears tune.

"You know your song, 'Oops! ... I Did It Again'?" asked Corden, leading up to it. "What's that about? What's it REALLY about?"

"I don't know," Spears demurely replied innocently. "I think it's just a song."

"Because every time I order at Domino's," said Corden, "I think, 'Oops! I did it again!'"

Between their front-seat vocalizing during the 10-minute segment, the carpool couple engaged in chitchat.

Spears reminded Corden she has two kids, ages 9 and 10.

"I want more," she declared.

"How many more?"

"Like, three. But I have to find the right guy first, and then -"

"- tell him that he's about to become the father of three children," Corden cut in with a grin before inquiring what sort of man she's looking for.

"I might not ever go to men again, I think, ever do the whole men thing anymore, or get married," she said. "I'm just done with men."

"You're saying you don't want to be with anyone, ever, the rest of your life?" Corden asked with surprise.

"I might French kiss someone," Spears hedged.

"Of COURSE! Yes!"

Corden asked Spears if her kids had seen her Las Vegas show.

"What it's like for them if you're wearing a racy outfit?" he posed. "I saw my mum in her underwear once when I was like 11. I can't shake the image from my brain."

Reflecting on her own childhood, Spears confided that she once got paddled in first grade, which left her "Traumatized! Traumatized!"

"I've never been spanked - properly, for either pain or pleasure," Corden said.

Just as well, said Spears. That brand of bondage is passe.

"Men get off on being TICKLED for a very long time," Spears told him.

But Corden wasn't buying it.

"I don't know what my wife would do if I went home and went, 'Sweet baby James needs a little bit of a tickling.'"

■■■

This story has corrected one of the song titles to "Womanizer," not "Superstar."

Traffic chaos as truck hits, collapses bridge on UK highway

LONDON (AP)— Witnesses and British emergency services say a truck has struck an overpass and collapsed a pedestrian bridge onto one of England's busiest highways, injuring one person.

Witnesses say a truck hauling construction vehicles appeared to clip the bridge Saturday on the London-bound M20 highway 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of the British capital.

Ambulance officials say the injured man was a motorcyclist who came off his bike as the bridge started to collapse in front of him, but his injuries were not life-threatening.

The M20, one of two motorways that link London with the cross-Channel port of Dover and the nearby Eurotunnel terminal, was closed in both directions. The shutdown caused massive traffic jams on what was already an exceptionally busy three-day weekend for vacationers heading to and from France.

Woman copes with anxiety by filtering out bad news

DEAR ABBY: Clearly, America is in a state of turmoil. I am horrified and ashamed of the senseless death occurring daily.

I deal with anxiety, particularly regarding fear of death. As a result, the only thing I've found that I can do to cope with current events is to scan headlines, and ask my understanding husband for a synopsis of events that doesn't include major triggers.

However, I feel serious guilt that I may not be fully educating myself on recent events. Am I wrong to prioritize my mental well-being over the gravity of our country's current situation?

SERIOUS GUILT

DEAR SERIOUS GUILT: Wrong? Absolutely not! According to The Journal of the American Medical Association, 13 percent of Americans now use antidepressants to combat depression and anxiety. Our news media feed so many salacious details into our homes in the interest of high ratings that it's a miracle the majority of Americans aren't in need of them.

If you are getting the news you need to know, do not feel guilty for using your husband as a filter. You are only protecting yourself, and that's not wrong. It's HEALTHY.

DEAR ABBY: I need advice. I'm 23 and have been living with my boyfriend of almost two years. I have never been in a relationship before this one, so I have little experience. I love him dearly, but every time there's an issue between us, it always becomes my fault and I'm always the one to apologize. What should I do?

INEXPERIENCED IN TAMPA

DEAR INEXPERIENCED: Even a stopped clock is right twice a day. You should not be forced into the role of perpetual peacekeeper by accepting the blame for everything, and it won't improve your relationship.

Because your boyfriend's preferred method of solving disagreements is laying the blame on you, suggest the two of you get couples counseling. However, if he refuses—and he may -- you will then have to decide whether this is the way you want to spend the foreseeable future because things aren't likely to change.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law "Dani" and my brother have been married almost three years. I recently discovered that Dani has created a fake social media page. She posted some nude photos on it and acts like she's single. I suspect she is getting paid to do live nude video chatting, too.

Abby, I'm shocked over this. I'm sure my brother would explode with rage and disappointment if he knew. They have two small daughters, which leaves me to wonder if she has considered their embarrassment if they ever find out.

She's a good person, so I don't know why she would do this. I really need your advice.

SHOCKED SISTER-IN-LAW IN THE SOUTH

DEAR S-I-L: It's time to talk to Dani. Tell her what you have learned and ask her why she's doing it. When you do, ask how she thinks your brother will react when he finds out—if he doesn't already know—and how this could affect their daughters. This may be a fling, a way to prove to herself that she's still attractive, or a way to earn needed money. But you will never know until you initiate a conversation with her.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

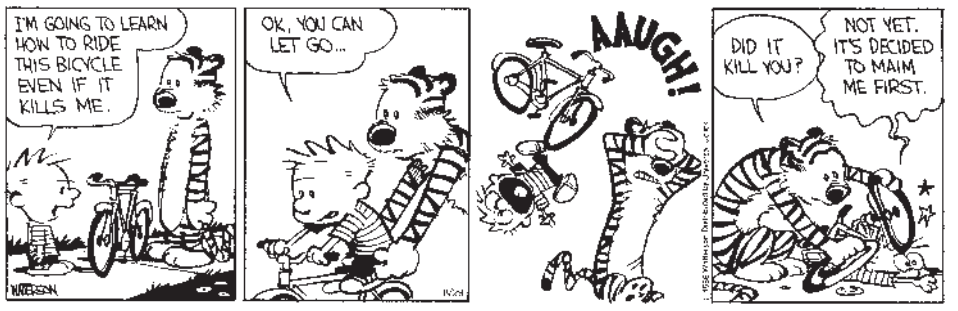
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

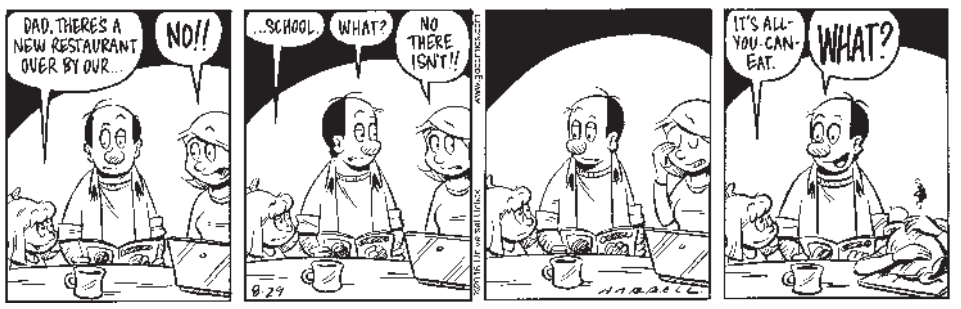

I'M GOING TO LEARN HOW TO RIDE THIS BICYCLE EVEN IF IT KILLS ME.
OK, YOU CAN LET GO...
AAUGH!
DID IT KILL YOU?
NOT YET. IT'S DECIDED TO MAIM ME FIRST.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

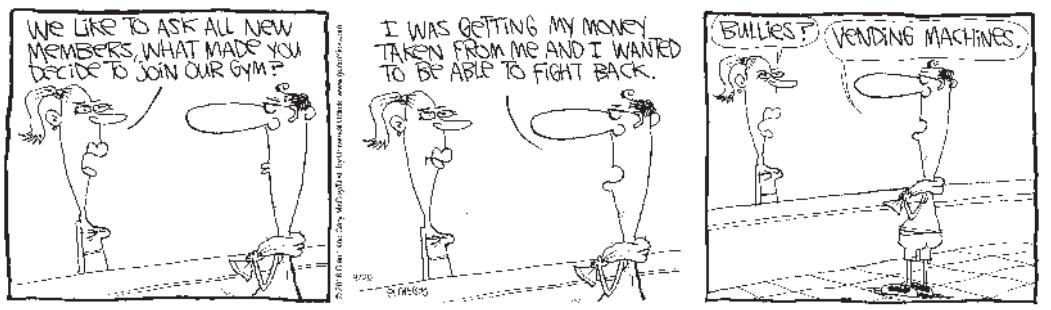
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WE LIKE TO ASK ALL NEW MEMBERS, WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO JOIN OUR GYM?
I WAS GETTING MY MONEY TAKEN FROM ME AND I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT BACK.
BULLIES?
VENDING MACHINES.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

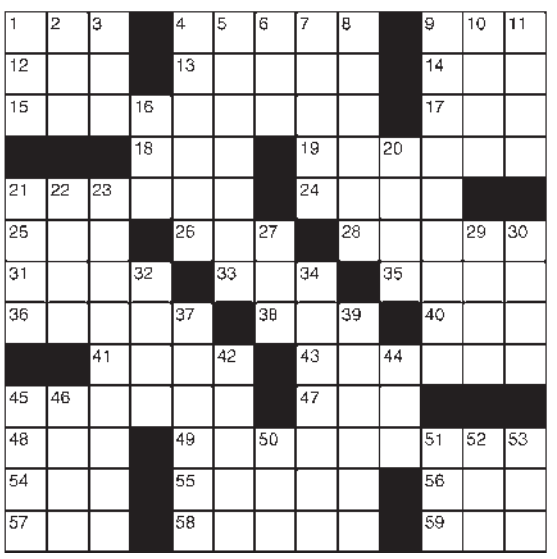
ACROSS
1 Moving vehicle
4 Blitzen's boss
9 Hot tub
12 Salary
13 Ryan or Tatum
14 That fellow
15 Flat, rectangular birthday dessert
17 Ecol. watchdog
18 — Lanka
19 Papa Hemingway
21 Seafood soup
24 Desist
25 German cry
26 Conclude
28 Egypt's neighbor
31 Must have
33 Bit of advice
35 The Big Easy acronym
36 "Doe, — ..."
38 Priestly garment
40 Leg, in slang
41 Scheme
43 Down Under native
45 Home of St. Francis
47 Weep
48 Guffaw
49 Drywall brand
54 Brit. record label
55 You'll bend over backward to do it
56 Nemesis
57 Junior
58 Pop star John
59 Gift from 4-Across

DOWN
1 Biden, Cheney, etc.
2 Contented sound
3 "Science Guy" Bill
4 "Amen to that!"
5 Like the Sphinx
6 PBS funder
7 Seizes
8 Warnings
9 Herding collies
10 Gladys Knight's backup
11 Latin 101 word
16 Atty.'s title
20 Subject, usually
21 Eric of "Troy"
22 On the rocks
23 Diploma
27 24 horas
29 Jai —
30 Identify
32 Sandwich shop
34 Sugar pill
37 Brawl in the boonies
39 Richard of "Cleopatra"
42 Zero (Lat.)
44 Damascus is its cap.
45 Pro votes
46 Wrestling style
50 911 responder
51 Frequently
52 Bill's partner
53 Crucial

Solution time: 27 mins.

N	U	B		A	B	S		W	H	A	T	S
C	V	A		S	A	I		H	E	L	I	O
N	U	N		T	R	A	D	E	W	I	N	D
E	L	F		C	R	N	O	T				
T	A	F	T		E	D	S		S	H	E	A
			A	Y	N		C	I	L	E	E	N
S	N	I	P	E				L	A	N	K	Y
A	R	C	A	N	A		Z	E	N			
C	A	Y	S		C	S	I		G	U	F	F
			D	R	E	G	S		-	I	U	
S	E	A	B	R	E	C	Z	E		N	O	D
S	A	M	B	A		P	A	N		A	N	G
N	U	T	S	Y		S	G	T		R	A	E

Friday's answer 8 - 29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lauren Collins, 30; Lea Michele, 30; Carla Gugino, 45; Rebecca De Mornay, 57.

Happy Birthday: Take note of what's transpired and make the decisions and changes that will encourage you to stabilize your financial position. Less stress will help you deal with other pressing domestic matters. The way you handle your money and offer help to others will determine your progress as well as your satisfaction and happiness. Past experience will result in personal growth. Your numbers are 6, 17, 24, 29, 31, 33, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Live, learn and participate, and positive changes will unfold. Embrace the challenges that come your way and you will surpass obstacles while you display your talent and skill. Aim to please others by going above and beyond what's expected. Financial gain is apparent. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Past experience will help you solve problems and make suggestions that will help others. Your unique way of communicating with your peers will promote a stellar reputation and boost your ego. Home improvements are favored. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be misled if you are gullible or let someone else handle your affairs. Be responsible and take care of your financial, medical or legal issues personally. Making updates should be your focus. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have more leeway than you realize. Use your creative imagination to come up with new ways to bring in more cash. Alterations you make at home will help ease your stress and add to your comfort. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't attempt the impossible. Stretch your mind and put some muscle behind your efforts. A change will turn out to be a saving grace, not a disappointment. Offer a positive attitude and plenty of enthusiasm. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Use finesse and originality when trying to get others to agree with you or follow your lead. Someone from your past will remind you of something you used to love to do. A tempting offer will be worth looking into. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Find out what will give you the edge over competitive peers. Knowing what and whom you are up against will give you the chance to up your game and make changes to the way you approach an important project. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get involved, do your thing and make a difference. You will get the favors, support and recognition you deserve if you lend a helping hand and offer imaginative solutions to those in an influential position. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll face opposition, temptation and uncertainty. Rely on what you know and protect what you've worked so hard to acquire. Discipline and fortitude will help you bring about change. Don't trust anyone else to know what's best for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stay intent on reaching your destination. Don't let bureaucracy get to you. Keep your papers in order and your personal affairs a secret. A trip will offer incentives that will contribute to your success. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Ask questions and discuss emotional matters. The information you gather will help you make a decision that will help ease your stress and define your future. Face matters head-on and keep moving forward. A partnership or promotion is within reach. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A business or educational trip will result in an opportunity. Discuss your options openly, but if someone makes unfair demands, consider it a signal for you to move on and do your own thing. Diplomacy and charm will help you avoid a blowout. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are willful, persistent and competitive. You are outgoing and productive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	7		1		
	9	4					5	
	2		1		9	3		8
3		6				5		
5				3				4
		9				7		2
7		1	3		8		2	
	5					4	8	
		8		2	1			

Difficulty Level ★ 8/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	7	6	3	1	4	8	5	2
8	1	4	5	6	2	3	9	7
3	2	5	9	7	8	6	4	1
4	3	7	6	5	9	2	1	8
6	9	1	8	2	3	4	7	5
5	8	2	7	4	1	9	6	3
7	6	3	4	8	5	1	2	9
2	4	9	1	3	7	5	8	6
1	5	8	2	9	6	7	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CURING A RASH Solution: 10 letters

T	S	S	T	N	E	M	E	L	P	P	U	S	S	C
C	R	R	E	D	N	E	S	S	H	S	A	W	I	O
A	A	E	E	R	L	D	A	E	R	P	S	E	S	C
T	N	S	A	P	U	I	D	A	O	L	N	L	A	O
N	O	O	T	T	A	C	M	C	E	I	A	L	I	N
O	I	O	H	O	O	I	R	G	M	E	A	I	R	U
C	T	T	I	K	R	N	D	A	M	M	A	N	O	T
I	A	H	V	A	A	E	T	T	I	E	T	G	S	O
R	M	I	E	O	L	S	A	N	E	C	H	T	P	I
E	M	N	S	S	I	O	E	R	R	B	E	C	I	L
M	A	G	H	H	N	C	T	Y	I	U	R	E	L	S
R	L	I	I	N	Z	A	A	T	L	M	B	S	L	P
U	F	T	N	E	E	M	E	L	G	P	S	N	S	A
T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	L	M	S	P	I	U	O
A	I	A	L	L	E	R	G	Y	C	R	E	A	M	S

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Last Thursday's Answer: Language

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 08/26/16 **Closing Date: 09/09/16***

POSITION TITLE:	**STATISTICS SPECIALIST I**
PAY LEVEL:	25/01 – 25/08
ANNUAL SALARY:	$17,700.92 - $24,889.35**
LOCATION:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
POSITION TITLE:	**STATISTICS SPECIALIST II**
PAY LEVEL:	27/01 – 27/08
ANNUAL SALARY:	$ 19,511.46 - $27,437.44**
LOCATION:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Wait Staff

Present menus to patrons and answer questions about menu items, making recommendations upon request. Take orders from patrons for food or beverages. Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff. Serve food or beverages to patrons. Prepare beverages for patrons. Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs. Check patrons' identification to ensure that they meet minimum age requirements for consumption of alcoholic beverages. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems. Collect payments from customers. Clean tables or counters after patrons have finished dining. Other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: Must have a High School Diploma, Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must have reliable transportation, and be able to work nights and weekends. Must have a friendly and approachable personality. A fair understanding of the Korean and Japanese languages is preferred. Successful candidates will be required to obtain a Food Handler's certificate.
Rate: $6.55 -$6.80/hr

Position: HVAC Technician

Observe and test system operation, using gauges and instruments. Adjust valves according to specifications and charge system with proper type of refrigerant by pumping the specified gas or fluid into the system. Test lines, components, and connections for leaks. Dismantle malfunctioning systems and test components, using electrical, mechanical, and pneumatic testing equipment. Adjust or replace worn or defective mechanisms and parts, and reassemble repaired systems.

Qualification: One to two (1-2) years of work experience in this field required. Must be highly reliable (may be required to respond to emergencies), able to lift at least 50 lbs, and work nights, weekends, and holidays.
Rate: $6.55 -$7.00/hr

IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS POSITION, interested applicant may drop off resume and fill out application form at the Frontdesk of LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kagman Road. Successful candidates should submit a recent Police Clearance, and may be subject to Pre-Employment Drug testing. LaoLao Bay Golf Resort is an equal opportunity employer. Medical insurance and workmen's compensation provided. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Restaurant Waitress (2): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
Please no phone calls.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Romo out with another back injury, no word on return

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Tony Romo is out with yet another back injury and it's unknown when he will return, although Dallas coach Jason Garrett says he expects his star quarterback to play this season.

Garrett said Saturday that Romo sustained a broken bone in his back when he was hit from behind by Seattle's Cliff Avrill and slid awkwardly on the third play of a preseason game.

Romo tried to get back into Thursday's game and said afterward that he was OK. But Garrett said the 36-year-old woke up Friday with stiffness, and an MRI revealed Romo's fourth back injury in less than four years. The injury will not require surgery.

Garrett wouldn't rule out Romo for the regular-season opener Sept. 11 against the New York Giants. Rookie Dak Prescott, a fourth-round pick who has had a strong preseason, is the presumed starter, although Garrett wouldn't acknowledge that either.

"If you guys remember, he has played with fractures in his back before," Garrett said, referring to Romo's quick return from a small fracture in his back in 2014.

"So that probably more than anything else is what is not giving us a timetable. We've heard a wide range of possibilities in terms of when he would be able to play."

The Cowboys plunged from 12-4 in 2014 to 4-12 last season, when Romo missed 12 games with a twice-broken left collarbone. Dallas went 1-11 without him.

Romo had back surgery twice in 2013, the first time during the offseason and again in December after rupturing a disk in Week 16 against Washington and missing the finale that the Cowboys lost with a playoff berth on the line.

AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo is examined on the sideline after he left the game with an injury during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2016, in Seattle.

In 2014, the four-time Pro Bowl player sustained a small fracture in his back and missed a loss to Arizona before leading the Cowboys to the NFC East title and their first playoff win since 2009.

Garrett said Romo's injury won't end his season.

"It's not related to the other back issues that he's had," Garrett said. "There is a specific to the hit he took the other night in the game."

Center Travis Frederick said the team was surprised by the news on Romo when they reported to the team's new practice facility Saturday.

"Still trying to take it in a little bit," Frederick said. "The name of the game for us has always been focusing on taking things one day at a time and also have the 'next man in' mentality. Being able to have Dak step up and be able to take over that role and just support him in any way that we can."

Prescott was elevated to the backup job when incumbent Kellen Moore broke his right ankle in a training camp practice.

The former Mississippi State standout has a preseason passer rating of 137.8, completing 39 of 50 passes for 454 yards with five touchdowns and no interceptions. He also has two rushing TDs.

The Cowboys are likely to add a veteran if Romo misses extended time, but now it figures to be as a backup to Prescott rather than the next in line behind Romo since Dallas elected not to bring in help soon after Moore's injury.

"Dak has done a nice job really at every turn starting back at training camp," Garrett said. "I thought he did a particularly good job in this game against Seattle because he certainly didn't anticipate going in on the fourth play of the game."

Now it looks as if Prescott will start in his regular-season debut, just as he did in the preseason in the first NFL game in Los Angeles in more than 20 years.

Kaepernick refuses to stand for anthem in protest

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick is refusing to stand for the national anthem before games because he believes the United States oppresses African Americans and other minorities.

Kaepernick sat on the team's bench Friday night during the anthem before the Niners played host to the Green Bay Packers in an exhibition game. He later explained his reasoning in an interview with NFL Media .

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick said. "To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said Saturday that "players are encouraged but not required to stand during the playing of the national anthem."

The 49ers issued a statement after Pro Football Talk initially reported on Kaepernick's stand, saying that Americans have the right to protest or support the anthem.

"The national anthem is and always will be a special part of the pregame ceremony," the team said. "It is an opportunity to honor our country and reflect on the great liberties we are afforded as its citizens. In respecting such American principles as freedom of religion and freedom of expression, we recognize the right of an individual to choose to participate, or not, in our celebration of the national anthem."

Coach Chip Kelly said Saturday that he had not talked with Kaepernick about his actions or comments but said that Kaepernick also did not stand for the national anthem before last week's game in Denver when he was injured and did not play.

"We recognize his right to do that," Kelly said. "It's not my right to tell him not to do something. That's his right as a citizen."

Kaepernick, who is biracial, was adopted and raised by white parents. He has been outspoken on his Twitter account on civil rights issues and in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Kaepernick is not the first U.S.-based athlete to use the anthem for protest. In 1996, NBA player Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf refused to stand for the anthem, saying the United States had a history of tyranny and doing so would conflict with his Islamist beliefs. The NBA initially suspended Abdul-Rauf for his stance before it was lifted when he said he would stand and pray silently during the song.

Flawless Fowler builds 1-shot lead at Barclays

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—Rickie Fowler is playing so well that he can't stop looking behind instead of considering the opportunity that lies ahead at The Barclays.

His wedge to 5 feet for a birdie on the 18th hole Saturday not only gave him a 3-under 68 and a one-shot lead over Patrick Reed, it was his 45th consecutive hole without a bogey at Bethpage Black, one of the strongest golf courses of the year.

In three rounds, he has made only one bogey.

That was on the ninth hole Thursday, a 4-foot putt that spun hard around the cup back at him. And yes, it still gnaws at him.

"Unfortunately, that one bogey ... it was more than a 180-degree lipout," he said with a smile. "So it was basically like going 54 holes, no bogeys. Around this place, I'm happy about that. It's been very close to having the game be where it is right now."

The timing could not be better for Fowler.

He is in solid position to win for the first time on the PGA Tour in a year, and to play his way onto the U.S. Ryder Cup team.

This is the final tournament for Americans to earn one of the eight automatic spots for the Ryder Cup matches at Hazeltine at the end of next month. Fowler was at No. 12 going into the opening FedEx Cup event and needed at least a third-place finish to earn a spot.

"It's nice to finally see some putts go in," Fowler said. "With a few putts going in, it frees up the rest of your game. I've been swinging well for a long time, and I've been waiting for the putter to catch up."

Along with three birdies, he made a pair of 10-foot par putts and a 25-foot par putt in the third round.

Fowler was at 9-under 204, and his work was not done. Not even close.

Reed overcame three bogeys in a four-hole stretch on the front nine and was tied for the lead on the back nine until the final two holes. Reed missed a 5-foot birdie putt on the 17th, and his 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole almost missed weakly to the right. He still managed a 71.

Right behind was Adam Scott, who also saw his share of putts go in, especially a 45-foot birdie on the 15th hole. Scott started out his round by holing a lob wedge from 98 yards for an eagle, and his 65 was the lowest score of the tournament.

Scott, who hasn't seriously contended since his back-to-back victories in Florida five months ago, was two shots behind at 7-under 206.

Martin Laird (69) and Emiliano Grillo (71) were three shots back, while defending champion Jason Day (70) and Justin Thomas (66) were in the group four shots back.

Fowler won against a strong field in Abu Dhabi at the start of the year, and he lost a two-shot lead with two holes to play in the Phoenix Open. Since then, he hasn't been much of a factor has his ranking—in the FedEx Cup and the Ryder Cup—began to plunge.

Not wanting to take a chance on being among the four captain's picks, he has a chance Sunday to secure his spot for Hazeltine.

Sanchez hits record HR in Yankees rout of Orioles

NEW YORK (AP)—With each day, with every swing, this run by Gary Sanchez becomes even more remarkable.

The New York Yankees rookie hit a home run for the third straight game Saturday, highlighting a 13-5 rout over the Baltimore Orioles.

Sanchez hit a drive that bounced off the top of the right-center field wall and over. He reached 11 career home runs faster than anyone in major league history—23 games, including two hitless games last year.

"It's fun to watch," teammate Starlin Castro said. "Every time he goes to the plate, we feel like something is going to happen in a good way."

The 11 homers are the most in a month by a rookie since Milwaukee's Ryan Braun hit 11 in July 2007, and are the most by an American League rookie since Oakland's Mark McGwire hit 15 in May 1987.

After the catcher connected, the crowd of 38,843 emphatically chanted his name. Mark Teixeira stepped out of the batter's box, pausing the game and allowing the 23-year-old to tip his batting helmet to the fans from the top of the dugout steps.

Sanchez said it was his first curtain call.

AP

New York Yankees' Gary Sanchez hits a solo home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on Saturday, Aug. 27, 2016, in New York.

Dodgers 3, Cubs 2

In Los Angeles, Julio Urias allowed one run over six innings, Corey Seager set a Dodgers franchise record for a shortstop with his 23rd home run and Los Angeles beat the Chicago Cubs to even the series between NL division leaders.

Urias (5-2) pitched better at home than the last time he faced the Cubs. The rookie left-hander made his second career start in Chicago on June 2 and gave up six runs—five earned—and eight hits in five innings while serving up three homers.

This time, he allowed six hits and tied a career high with eight strikeouts and two walks. He is 4-0 in six games (four starts) since the All-Star break.

Braves 3, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Matt Kemp hit a three-run homer and Mike Foltynewicz pitched 7 2/3 strong innings, leading Atlanta past the Giants.

Foltynewicz (7-4) struck out six and allowed five hits and a walk. His only mistake came in the second inning, when Brandon Crawford socked an 0-1 fastball for his 12th homer.

San Francisco fell to 13-26 since the All-Star break, the worst record in the majors over that stretch.

Red Sox 8, Royals 3

In Boston, Dustin Pedroia had four hits to extend his streak to 11 at-bats before bouncing into a double play with a chance to tie the major league record and Boston beat Kansas City.

Pedroia's streak, which stretched over three games, ended in the eighth inning. Johnny Kling of the Cubs set the record of 12 in 1902, Pinky Higgins of the Red Sox matched it in 1938, and Detroit's Walt Dropo accopmplished the feat in 1952.

Rockies 9, Nationals 4, 11 innings

In Washington, Charlie Blackmon hit two home runs, including the go-ahead shot in the 11th inning, and Colorado beat Washington to snap a four-game losing streak.

NL MVP Bryce Harper was ejected in the 10th after getting called out on strikes. The Nationals star yelled at plate umpire Mike Winters and threw his helmet to the ground after being tossed.

Blackmon connected in the third off starter A.J. Cole, then hit a two-run drive off Yusmeiro Petit (3-4). Blackmon has 23 home runs this season and five multihomer games.

Mets 2, Phillies 1

In New York, Yoenis Cespedes hit a three-run homer, Kelly Johnson had a pinch-hit grand slam and Noah Syndergaard pitched two-hit ball over seven innings to help New York rout Philadelphia.

Asdrubal Cabrera homered for the third time in two games, a two-run drive that put New York ahead against Jeremy Hellickson (10-8). Neil Walker added his 23rd of the season to match a career high, giving the Mets four homers for the second consecutive night in a blowout of Philadelphia.

Angels 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Detroit stars Victor Martinez and J.D. Martinez were ejected, along with manager Brad Ausmus and hitting coach Wally Joyner in a series of balls-and-strikes disputes as the Tigers' five-game winning streak ended in a loss to Los Angeles.

Kaleb Cowart hit his second career home run and C.J. Cron added an RBI single for the Angels.

Rangers 7, Indians 0

In Arlington, Mitch Moreland's grand slam capped a bizarre, five-run first inning for Texas and A.J. Griffin pitched six strong innings in the victory over Cleveland.

Griffin (6-3) allowed five hits while winning for the first time since Aug. 4. In making his first scoreless start of the season, Griffin didn't allow a home run for the first time in 12 starts.

Carlos Carrasco (9-7) allowed seven runs—four unearned in the first—and eight hits in four innings while striking out eight.

Blue Jays 8, Twins 7

In Toronto, Melvin Upton Jr. hit an RBI triple and continued home on a misplay in the eighth inning, completing AL East-leading Toronto's rally from a five-run deficit.

Edwin Encarnacion homered and had three RBI to help Toronto hand Minnesota its ninth straight loss.

The Blue Jays trailed 7-6 in the eighth when Kevin Pillar doubled with one out off Ryan Pressly (6-6). Upton followed with a triple past a diving Max Kepler in right.

Athletics 3, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Khris Davis hustled home on an infield grounder in the eighth inning and Oakland rallied for two runs to beat St. Louis.

The Cardinals fell to 1-8 in interleague games at Busch Stadium this season.

Oakland trailed 2-1 in the eighth when Davis singled with one out against Matt Bowman (2-5) and Ryon Healy doubled, extending the longest active hitting streak in the majors to 13 games.

Reds 13, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Anthony DeSclafani threw a four-hitter and Scott Schebler homered twice in Cincinnati's blowout victory over Arizona.

DeSclafani (8-2) had nine strikeouts and a walk, needing 108 pitches to throw the first complete game of his career.

Joey Votto and Schebler homered during a four-run first inning and Schebler connected again in a five-run second, all against Zack Godley (4-3).

White Sox 9, Mariners 3

In Chicago, Jose Abreu hit the first of Chicago's four runs, and Jose Quintana threw 7 2/3 solid innings in the White Sox's victory over Seattle.

Avisail Garcia and Alex Avila hit consecutive homers during a four-run fifth and Tyler Saladino added a two-run shot in the seventh, all off struggling reliever Vidal Nuno.

Padres 1, Marlins 0

In Miami, Ryan Schimpf homered, Clayton Richard pitched seven innings and San Diego beat Miamito snap a four-game losing streak.

Schimpf homered in the fourth inning off Jose Urena (2-5). Schimpf also homered Friday night and has 16 this season.

Astros 6, Rays 2

In Houston, rookie Alex Bregman homered and had three RBI, and Dallas Keuchel threw seven solid innnins in Houston's victory over Tampa Bay.

Bregman connected off fellow rookie Blake Snell (4-7) in the third inning to make it 4-0.

Keuchel (9-12) allowed nine hits and two runs for his first career victory over the Rays.

Pirates 9, Brewers 6

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Gregory Polanco had a tie-breaking three-run double and Pittsburgh overcame a four-run deficit to beat Milwaukee.

Polanco doubled off reliever Blaine Boyer (1-3) with one-out in the sixth, giving the Pirates a 9-6.

Spurs trying to sign Argentina's Laprovittola

TEXAS—The San Antonio Spurs could have three members of Argentina's national team on their roster next season.

They are "actively lobbying" point guard Nicolas Laprovittola to come to the NBA, according to ESPN's Marc Stein.

In six games at the Olympics in Rio, Laprovittola averaged 8.2 points, 2.7 assists and 2.2 rebounds. He could give San Antonio some extra point guard depth behind Tony Parker and Patty Mills, but it already has a full roster.

Two cuts would have to be made to make room for Laprovittola. Ryan Arcidiacono could easily one of them. Everybody else, though, was expected to make the team. It is unclear what the Spurs' plan is here.

The Spurs, of course, already employ Argentinian legend Manu Ginobili. They also signed 23-year-old swingman Patricio Garino earlier this summer. Laprovittola, 26, spent last season split between Lietuvos Rytas and Estudiantes.

In Philadelphia, in a deal constructed around salary-cap maneuvering, the Philadelphia 76ers sent guard Kendall Marshall to the Utah Jazz for center Tibor Pleiss, two second-round picks and cash.

The Jazz plan to waive Marshall before his $2 million contract becomes guaranteed Saturday, league sources said.

The 76ers will absorb the $3 million guaranteed to Pleiss for 2016-17 and the $500,000 guaranteed on the $3.1 million in 2017-18. Pleiss, 26, joined the Jazz a year ago from Europe, but has been disappointing and has lost momentum in his NBA career.

Marshall, 25, was the 13th overall pick of the Phoenix Suns in the 2012 NBA draft. He has had stops with the Los Angeles Lakers, Milwaukee Bucks and 76ers in his career. The Sixers moved him so late in the summer that it makes it much more difficult for him to find a guaranteed spot for training camp with another team.

Marshall had shown staying power in Milwaukee in 2014-15 before an ACL injury, and several league executives still believe there's a spot in the league for him as a backup point guard.

Solo takes indefinite leave from Seattle Reign

WASHINGTON (AP)— Hope Solo has taken an indefinite leave from the Seattle Reign of the National Women's Soccer League, less than a week after being suspended for six months by the U.S. national team for disparaging remarks about Sweden.

The move was announced Saturday by the Reign, saying that the Olympic goaltender has been granted personal leave. The team did not say how long Solo would be away.

It's been a rough time for the record-breaking goalkeeper. On Wednesday, she was suspended after calling the Swedes "cowards" for their defensive style of play after the U.S. was ousted by Sweden in the quarterfinals of the Rio Games.

Solo was previously suspended for 30 days early in 2015 for her conduct, and won't be eligible for selection to the national team until February.

The Reign announced Solo's leave hours before Saturday's match against the Portland Thorns, after previously indicating that she and U.S. teammate Megan Rapinoe would be available to play. Seattle signed goalkeeper Andi Tostanoski to replace Solo.

AP
Hope Solo has taken an indefinite leave from the Seattle Reign of the National Women's Soccer League.

The three-time defending champion U.S. women were handed their earliest-ever exit from the Olympics earlier this month when Sweden advanced 4-3 on penalty kicks following a 1-1 draw on Aug. 12.

Sweden's coach, Pia Sundhage, who led the U.S. team to gold medals in Beijing and London, replied to Solo's postgame comment by stating: "It's OK to be a coward if you win." Sweden went on to play in the gold-medal match against Germany.

Solo had caused a stir in Brazil even before the comment about Sweden because of social media posts about the Zika virus. Brazilian fans booed her mercilessly and shouted "Zika!" every time she touched the ball.

The 35-year-old has long been a lightning rod for controversy.

She still faces a possible trial on misdemeanor domestic violence charges after a 2014 incident at her sister's home, when she was accused of being intoxicated and assaulting her sister and 17-year-old nephew. Solo said she was a victim in the altercation. Earlier this year, an appeals court in Washington state rejected Solo's request to avoid trial.

In early 2015 while Solo was at a team training camp in Southern California, her husband Jerramy Stevens was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence in a U.S. Soccer team van. Solo was with him at the time.

The former Seattle Seahawks tight end later pleaded no contest and was sentenced to 30 days in jail and four years on probation. Solo was suspended by U.S. Soccer for 30 days.

U.S. Soccer indicated in its statement announcing her suspension on Wednesday that it was a culmination of events.

At the same time, Solo has been stellar on the field.

She became the first goalkeeper with 100 international shutouts last month when the United States defeated South Africa 1-0 at Soldier Field in Chicago. It also was her 150th career win.

During the Rio Games she made her 200th appearance in goal for the United States, an international record.

Solo won her second straight Golden Glove Award for the best goalkeeper at the Women's World Cup a year ago. Over the course of the tournament in Canada, she had five shutouts and allowed only three goals in seven games.

The U.S. won the World Cup for its third title in soccer's premier event.

She has also vocally advocated for women's rights. Solo was among the U.S. players who filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for wage discrimination, saying the men's national team players have been paid much more than many on the women's team.

Solo issued a statement on her social media following her suspension.

"I could not be the player I am without being the person I am, even when I haven't made the best choices or said the right things," she said. "My entire career, I have only wanted the best for this team, for the players and the women's game, and I will continue to pursue these causes with the same unrelenting passion with which I play the game."

MISTER

From Page 28

Mister enjoyed a twice-to-beat advantage and went on to secure the division title early after taking control of Game 1 en route to the 9-point victory. The winning duo built a 6-1 advantage off good ball placements and led by as much as 9, 15-6, after Quinn and Rillera hit wide shots. The second finalists ended the slump, 7-15, when Quinn went for the kill and dropped the ball at the backline with both Mister and Nelson on the front.

Nelson and Mister then won the next exchange with the latter moving their team a point away from wrapping up the match, 20-12, after his spike also fell to the backline with Quinn and Rillera anticipating and rushing near the net for a block. Nelson served for the match point and scored when Quinn received the ball, but failed to return it as the leather fell to the sand court.

Mama Duo wins

In the women's division, Mama Duo's Nicole LeBlanc and Kathy Winkfield also went unbeaten in the double-elimination playoffs to claim the championship.

Mama Duo, who had a perfect record in the pool play to take the top seeding in the playoffs, marched into the finals first after prevailing over Haole-Pino, 21-16, and Brinohh, 21-18, in the winner's bracket. In the finals, Mama Duo was paired against Last Minute's Shawn Davis and Kriszelle Esteves and won anew, 21-16. Last Minute barged into the finals after defeating Brinohh in the loser's bracket semis, 21-18.

Meanwhile, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association-sanctioned tournament also held a 4-person competition last Sunday and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune* later this week.

KANOA

From Page 28

nately hit baskets for Kanoa to overhaul Fiesta's lead early in the second half. By the halfway mark of the final frame, Kanoa managed to establish a double-digit lead and kept going to finish off Fiesta.

The first finalist nailed several fastbreak plays with Sacramento and Schmidt on the finishing end, while Matt, who returned to Kanoa's lineup after missing three games due to a knee injury, and Ernest knocked in a couple of long jumpers. With Schmidt and company on fire, Kanoa's second half-output was more than Fiesta's production in the entire game, 57-55.

Schmidt paced Kanoa with his 20 points, while Ernest added 16, and Sacramento and Matt chipped in 14 and 12, respectively.

Arjay Nonato had 13 to lead Fiesta, which had only two players breaking into double figures with Roland Galag contributing 12. Elmer Esdrelon, who had 16 markers in their 77-51 victory over Shirley's in the first round of the playoffs, was held to 9 markers, making only one field goal in the second half. Paul Quizon also struggled against Kanoa, recording only 2 points off a pair of charities—a far cry from his 19 markers in their win over Shirley's. Another Fiesta player who had an off night was Adonis Macoto, as the defending champion's guard was held scoreless and fouled out midway in the second half.

Kanoa Resort 77— Schmidt 20, E. Duenas 16, Sacramento 14, M. Duenas 12, Villagomez 7, Usi 5, Pablo 3.

Fiesta Resort 55 — Nonato 13, Galag 12, Esdrelon 9, Maratita 7, Matsutaro 4, Rivera 3, Quizon 2, Villamena 2, Lavarias 2.

Scoring by halves: 20-23, 77-55.

ITF

From Page 28

end of the year," said Lee, who as of Aug. 22 is ranked at No. 488 and got her highest ranking at No. 443 on July 4.

Lee has a combined 110 ITF Juniors ranking points, getting 100 in singles and 40 in doubles.

"I am very excited for my upcoming tournaments. I would love to experience all these high-level tournaments," Lee said.

She will start her bid for more ITF Juniors ranking points after dominating this year's POJC. Lee was undefeated both in the U16 singles and juniors events of the annual tournament, winning all her eight matches in the singles en route to back-to-back championships in the division. She did not lose even one set in the singles and also went 2-0 in the doubles (with Isabel Heras). In the POJC team event, she was flawless, too and led the North Pacific Team to the championship in girls U16 age group.

"POJC was good for me. The matches were not that difficult, but they gave me the opportunity to practice more and try new tactics and plans," Lee added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	73	56	.566	—
Boston	72	57	.558	1
Baltimore	70	59	.543	3
New York	67	61	.523	5½
Tampa Bay	54	74	.422	18½

Central Division

Cleveland	73	55	.570	—
Detroit	69	60	.535	4½
Kansas City	67	62	.519	6½
Chicago	62	66	.484	11
Minnesota	49	80	.380	24½

West Division

Texas	76	54	.585	—
Seattle	68	61	.527	7½
Houston	68	61	.527	7½
Oakland	56	73	.434	19½
Los Angeles	55	74	.426	20½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	75	54	.581	—
Miami	67	62	.519	8
New York	66	63	.512	9
Philadelphia	59	70	.457	16
Atlanta	48	82	.369	27½

Central Division

Chicago	82	46	.641	—
St. Louis	68	60	.531	14
Pittsburgh	66	61	.520	15½
Milwaukee	56	73	.434	26½
Cincinnati	55	73	.430	27

West Division

Los Angeles	72	57	.558	—
San Francisco	70	59	.543	2
Colorado	61	68	.473	11
San Diego	54	75	.419	18
Arizona	54	76	.415	18½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

21st Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Yuko Togawa, center, shows her third place prize in the Ladies Flight of the 21st Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions held early this month at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort. Joining him in the photo, from left, are DFS Saipan general manager Milan Rabold, Miss Marianas Peachy Quitugua, DFS president Marian Aldan-Pierce, and TOC chair Ben Babauta.

Super Senior Flight fifth finisher Frank Castro, center, receives a DFS gift certificate.

Senior Flight runner-up Joung Hoon Park, third left, poses with the awards presenters after getting his prizes.

A Flight runner-up Rene Batallones, third left, smiles after receiving his prizes.

Ladies Flight champion Noriko Togawa, center, receives her prizes from the awards presenters.

The Super Senior Flight winners pose for a photo with the awards presenters.

Titan Imports' John Antenocruz, fourth left, presents a bottle of Royal Salute to Senior Flight champion Lloyd Hartman, center.

Frank D. Sablan, third left, is awarded a bottle of Royal Salute for topping the A Flight.

Romo out with another back injury, no word on return

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Sports

Sanchez hits record HR in Yankees rout of Orioles

PAGE 25

More Jr. ITF events await Lee

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here competing in an ITF Juniors event on Saipan early this year, will be off-island anew next month to participate in more ranking tournaments.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After her successful campaign in the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji, CNMI junior tennis player Carol Lee is not done yet for this season.

Lee, the girls U16 singles and doubles champion in the POJC, will be competing in ITF Juniors ranking tournaments in Oceania, Africa, and Asia, and will be attempting to join the US Nationals (U16) in December.

"I am back and will be staying on Saipan until Sept. 17 before I return to Fiji and train again there for a week," said Lee, who left the island early May and just came back last weekend after getting the ITF/OTF Pacific Training Centre–Summer Scholarship and seing action in a series of ranking tournaments in Fiji and New Caledonia.

After her training at the ITF/Oceania Tennis Federation facility in Lautoka, the 14-year-old Lee will go to New Zealand for a couple of tournaments. From New Zealand, she will then head to Morocco for a tournament at a clay court and a two-week training session.

"From Morocco, I will go home and stay on Saipan for two weeks before heading to the Philippines for an ITF Juniors event," said Lee, who is enrolled in an online school because of her travels and competitions this year.

The CNMI player will go for as many ITF Juniors ranking points she could take from these off-island competitions to have a chance for a wild card entry in the US Nationals before the year ends.

"My goal is to get into the Top 300 at the

See ITF on Page 26

Kanoa Resort cruises way to finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Resort's Rico Villagomez drives baseline during their semis game against Fiesta Resort last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Resort punched the first finals ticket in the 2016 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League after easing past Fiesta Resort, 77-55, in the winner's bracket semis game last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Kanoa went to business in the second half en route to a double-digit winning margin—its 12th in as many games—and a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals. The defending champion Fiesta, on the other hand, is not out yet and will play the winner of the rubbermatch between Shirley's Coffee Shop and JP Mambas for the second and last finals berth this Friday.

Down at the half for the first time this season, 20-23, Kanoa's lethal quartet of Douglas Schmidt, Ernest and Matt Duenas, and Rodney Sacramento made sure their team will bounce back in the second to foil Fiesta's upset bid.

The four key players alter-

See KANOA on Page 26

Mister, Nelson top beach v-ball tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

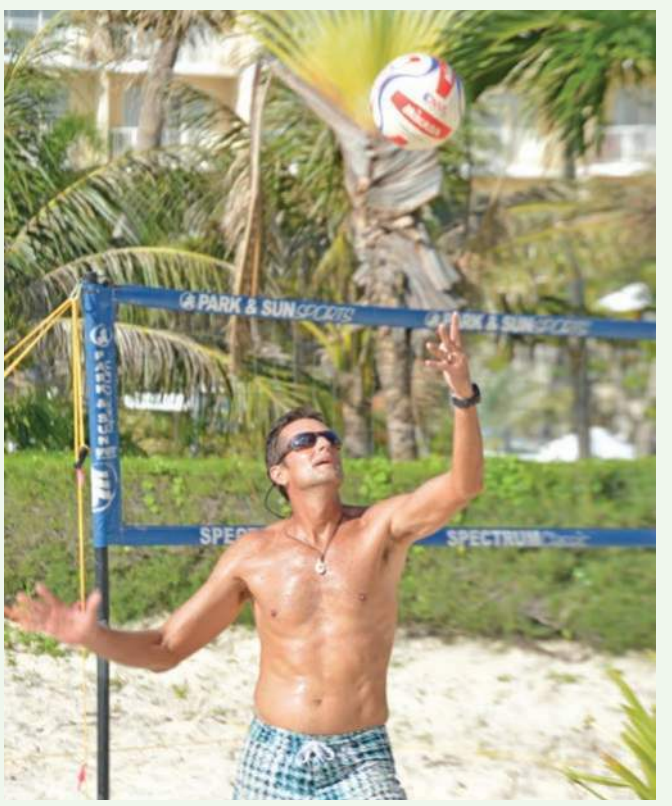
The tried and tested pair of Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson ruled the men's division of the 2016 Endless Summer Beach Volleyball Classic held over the weekend at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Mister and Nelson, who teamed up in local and regional tournaments in the past several years, clinched the division championship after beating Russ Quinn and Guam's Dave Rillera in the finals last Saturday, 21-12.

The eventual champions were undefeated in the double-elimination playoffs, getting the first finals berth after downing Team Blind's Bruce Berline, 21-9, and Dan Westphal and Quinn and Rillera, 25-23, in the winner's bracket. Team Blind dropped to the loser's bracket, but remained in contention after ousting Balls & Chains' Nick Gross and Steven Beyer, 21-17. With the victory, Team Blind earned a chance to challenge Quinn and Rillera for the last finals berth and the latter prevailed, 21-19, to get a second crack at Mister and Nelson.

In the finale, Nelson and

See MISTER on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tyce Mister serves during his and Chris Nelson's title game against Dave Rillera and Russ Quinn in the men's division of the 2016 Endless Summer Beach Volleyball Classic held last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.